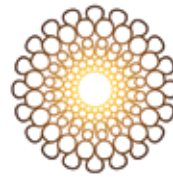


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# Society & Environment

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Issue 165

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



UAE hosts the 2016 United Nations  
Global South South  
Development Expo

Dr. Bin Fahad: "We are keen on achieving integration amongst countries of the South"





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

**Together for a green home**



creating green communities for better tomorrow

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**Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad**

Executive Editor

The UN Global South South Development Expo 2016 has proved beyond doubt how the global landscape of development cooperation has transformed with countries of the South now engaging in collaborative learning models to share innovative, adaptable and cost-efficient solutions to address their development challenges. Cooperation has gone far beyond financial contributions. At the GSSD Expo we heard how developing countries are creating new and innovative responses to their socio-economic-environmental challenges, ranging from poverty and education to climate change, post-conflict and reconstruction.

The event brought together result-based solutions and evidence-based initiatives from across the spectrum of stakeholders. Discussions revolved around how we could enhance and implement effective capacity-building initiatives in developing countries to support national development objectives geared towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

As hosts of the event, the Expo served as a proud moment for both the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and the United Arab Emirates as it underlines the country's prominent role in participating in all international efforts to establish sustainable solutions to environmental, economic and social problems.

The South South Expo is not to be seen as a mere conference; it exemplifies the UAE Vision 2021 wherein the Government wants to ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment, and to achieve a perfect balance between economic and social development.

The GSSD Expo was an excellent opportunity to showcase to other countries the success the UAE has achieved in the field of sustainable development. I believe the SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. Improving access to technology and knowledge is therefore critical to sharing ideas and fostering innovation.

To carry the vision of the Expo forward, we should be strengthening our focus on how we can translate these discussions to bring action, cooperation and collaboration with meaningful results.



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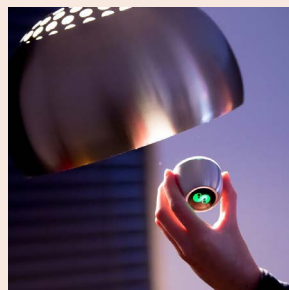
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## From the Managing Editor



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

From October 31 to November 3, UAE was transformed into a stage for development cooperation as partnerships were forged; knowledge and solutions shared alongside experiences and best practices in the collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

As the curtains drew to a close on the highly stimulating and engaging Global South South Development Expo 2016, it cemented the vital role that South-South and triangular cooperation will play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The finale of the GSSD Expo was a celebration of the resounding success of the commitment to sustainable development and it coincided with the celebration of the UAE Flag Day, a day of unmitigated pride and joy.

The GSSD Expo 2016 was a watershed moment for the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment to have been part of history in the making as the UAE became the first nation to host the Expo. Months of preparation and hard work paid off when distinguished champions of South-South cooperation commended the Zayed Foundation for the competent and efficient hosting of the event.

By carrying forward the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, and the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Zayed Foundation is continuing to entrench itself on the international map for its commitment to the implementation of the ambitious and transformative sustainable development agendas that are shaping our world.

With more than 1,200 representatives from over 90 countries, the Expo was not merely a conference; it was a platform for systematic showcasing of development solutions and brought together topics of climate change, poverty and hunger alleviation, food security, trade, youth entrepreneurship, skills development, etc under one roof.

One of the significant outcomes of the Expo will be the publication of 'UAE Solutions: South-South and Triangular Contributions to Sustainable Development' that will highlight the leadership of the UAE in the sharing of South-South cooperation for effective development and will include a collection of all the solutions, strategies and lessons learned and showcased at the GSSD Expo 2016.

I now look forward to more innovative collaboration to make our dreams transform into a meaningful reality.

Executive Editor

Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

Managing Editor

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar

Advisor

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif

Editor

Sangeetha Swaroop  
editor@zayedprize.org.ae

Design Director

Nash - Intoto  
nash@intotoadz.com

Marketing

marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Published by



**Zayed International Foundation for the Environment**

P.O. Box 28399, Dubai, UAE

Tel: +971 4 3326666

Fax: +971 4 3326777

Website: [www.zayedprize.org.ae](http://www.zayedprize.org.ae)

email: [zayedprz@emirates.net.ae](mailto:zayedprz@emirates.net.ae)



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### 2016 GSSD Expo opens with call for greater South- South solidarity



Hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the UAE, the GSSD Expo 2016 was held in Dubai from 31 October to 3 November.

The eighth annual United Nations Global South-South Development Expo, hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the UAE was opened on 31st October 2016 in Dubai by His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Media Incorporated at the Sheikh Rashid Hall of the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

HH Sheikh Maktoum was accompanied by HH Sheikh

Mansoor Bin Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum at the inauguration of the Expo, which attracted environment ministers from the UAE and other countries from the Global South, senior United Nations delegates, senior government officials and over 500 international delegates.

The annual Expo, held under the auspices of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, is designed to enhance innovation and development among the participating countries with a view to achieving the United

Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. This annual event highlighting Southern innovations in tackling southern poverty challenges was held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 31 October to 3 November.

The GSSD Expo is a direct response to the expressed needs of stakeholders from the Global South to further scale up proven development solutions and best practices that contribute to sustainable development. It amplifies and celebrates the collective effort and impact of showcasing development





The GSSD Expo is a powerful platform for key players to showcase their development solutions, celebrate successes, share knowledge and lessons learned, while exploring new avenues for collaboration and initiating new partnership efforts.

solutions and best practices that puts together all development actors – policy decision-makers, solution providers, solution seekers, and funders/donors – into one single event.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister for Climate Change and Environment said: “The world has witnessed a great economic and political shift in the past two decades, and the relations among the countries of the South and between the countries of the South and the countries of the North has risen to new dimensions

and have the potential to effectively address major current issues such as the environment and climate change, energy and food security, global poverty, migration etc.

“The United Arab Emirates under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the country, has been keen on participating in all international efforts to establish sustainable solutions to environmental, economic and social problems, and this as illustrated clearly in the UAE Vision 2021, in addition to

supporting innovative solutions to protect the environment and ensure sustainability through modern techniques to rationalize natural resources,” Al Zeyoudi said.

“This was confirmed, in particular, by many leading initiatives such as the Emirates Strategy for Green Development that includes renewable energy and green architecture and sustainable transport and rationalizing consumption of water, energy and electricity, and the applying principles of cleaner production all over the country, as well as hosting the International



Renewable Energy Agency 'IRENA' and the initiative of Masdar City, which is developing and deploying renewable energy and alternative energy technologies in the world," Al Zeyoudi added.

To help developing countries, the UAE is focusing on key areas such as diversifying energy sources and empowering women and children to meet the sustainable development goals of the United Nations, said the Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Global South-South Development Expo in Dubai, Dr. Al Zeyoudi said, "Collaboration and cooperation

among south-south countries has given ample opportunity for them to achieve economic growth and sustainable development."

"Many of them have become very important players in the economic arena, some have even emerged as models of economic development, so this is a very important step towards coming up with innovative solutions to addressing climate change and bridging the gap between north and south countries," he added.

Over the past three years, the UAE has been increasingly active in finding sustainable solutions for developing countries by supporting key sectors such as education and health care. The country launched several

initiatives to combat poverty and disease.

"International cooperation is a key pillar of our foreign policy," Dr. Al Zeyoudi said.

"We are providing development aid to developing countries and the UAE is actively participating in enhancing cooperation between south-south countries and north-south countries to come up with sustainable solutions for key challenges worldwide. It is the key approach to achieving sustainable development for humanity as a whole."

Although progress has been made, there is growing concern that 2.2 billion people in the world



To help developing countries, the UAE is focusing on key areas such as diversifying energy sources and empowering women and children to meet the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.



are living in poverty, 80 per cent of people in developing countries lack comprehensive social welfare, 1.6 billion people do not have access to electricity and 900 million are without clean water.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan was the keynote speaker at the event and commenced her address by stating that “the UAE is a particularly suitable choice for hosting the GSSD Expo and enhancing innovation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it has distinguished itself as a developing country’s model for its significant, innovative achievements in sustainability.”

In her opening remarks, she also

expressed her deep appreciation to the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and its Chairman Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahd for hosting the event “in the extraordinary emirate of Dubai at a pivotal moment for global comments.”

She emphasized that cooperation among developing countries is nothing new. “For centuries, they have been helping their neighbours in need, especially at times of humanitarian crisis.

“Since the 1990s the idea of South South Cooperation has expanded rapidly and today, the presence of South South cooperation in international discourse is much, much stronger.”

Pointing out that the global development cooperation landscape is changing rapidly, Queen Noor Al Hussein said: “Developing countries and emerging economies have become key actors not only in trade and investment, but also in global and regional development. They have amassed rich, ground-breaking and diversified development practices and are actively supporting each other to find practical and relevant policy solutions.”

South South cooperation and triangular cooperation have increased the range of opportunities for development partnership, she noted. “We have all gathered here today to address how we can all



collectively play a key role in advancing the development of growth, she said, adding, "I am particularly looking forward to this gathering's exchange of business models which no doubt will be of incalculable benefit to us all."

Queen Noor also paid tribute to Masdar, the UAE's renewable energy company, in pioneering green energy development and technology transfer that has helped countries such as Jordan in the development of wind and solar power.

Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-

South Cooperation (UNOSSC), highlighted the achievements in the past 38 years since Member States convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to support technical cooperation among developing countries through BAPA – the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. "This year," he said, "UN Member States called for the commemoration of BAPA+40 in 2018, where we will focus South-South efforts toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

Addressing delegates at the expo by videolink, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said developing countries were "vital for global economic success and achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development."

He said the "cross-cutting challenges are at the heart of the sustainable development goals."

"The growing trend among Southern countries to look not only to reducing poverty within their own borders but also to raise the development prospects of other developing countries is exhibited across a range of countries, including strong emerging economies and other South-South pivotal countries," said the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

H.E. Ambassador Richard Nduhura, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South South-



The GSSD Expo is a direct response to the expressed needs of stakeholders from the Global South to further scale up proven development solutions and best practices that contribute to sustainable development.



South Cooperation, emphasized that the pivotal role of South-South cooperation has recently been highlighted not only in the context of Agenda 2030, but also in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, pointed out in his opening speech that developed and developing countries should “set aside the old divides” and find ways

to work together to confront poverty challenges, which exist in the North and South. “All of us have work to do,” he said. “And if we don’t do that work together, we will not meet the goals we have set.”

Since its inception in 2008, the GSSD Expo has actively showcased and promoted best practices from hundreds of partner countries, United Nations agencies, private-sector enterprises and civil society organizations. Past Expos have taken place in New York, Washington DC, Vienna, Geneva, Rome and Nairobi.

More than 70 exhibits were on display at the Expo. In one example, representatives of

India, Brazil and South Africa launched their 2016 IBSA Fund report at the inauguration of a special exhibit highlighting the achievements of the \$31 Million IBSA Fund.

“The many results of the IBSA Fund activities across various developing countries are a testimony to the impact delivered by South-South partnerships,” said Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of UNOSSC. “We are very pleased to provide the platform of this global Expo to highlight the goals and accomplishments of this and other important initiatives which support South-South cooperation.”

**Cover Story**

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creating green communities

**Zayed Foundation  
hails UAE's role in  
helping countries  
meet UN SDGs**



Dr. Mohammed bin Fahd, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, said that the 2016 GSSD Expo was an excellent opportunity to showcase to other countries the success the UAE has achieved in the field of sustainable development.

**“Conducting the 2016 GSSD Expo is proof of the UAE’s leadership and its adherence to the principles of tolerance that has seen diverse nationalities, cultures and religions, working together and contributing to the betterment of the country.”**

**A**s the curtains went up for the start of the four-day United Nations Global South-South Development Expo 2016, it was a moment of hope, promise and celebration as environment ministers from the UAE and other countries from the Global South, senior United Nations delegates, senior government officials and over 500 international delegates gathered together to boost cooperation among developing countries, with the aim of carrying out the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to realize its bold vision of a life of dignity for all people.

In his welcome speech on the opening day of the conference on 31st October, 2016 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahd, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, stated that it was the continuous dialogue over the past several years with the various entities of the South South Cooperation that culminated in the Zayed Foundation’s hosting of this event.

“In recent years, the international community has become cognizant of the fact that international





Since its inception in 2008, the GSSD Expo has actively showcased and promoted best practices from hundreds of partner countries, United Nations agencies, private-sector enterprises and civil society organizations.

cooperation, including North South and Triangular cooperation is imperative to promote inclusive and sustainable development, especially in view of achieving internationally agreed agenda,” he pointed out. “I hope that at the 2016 GSSD Expo, participants of South South nations will benefit from the sharing of experiences, technical assistance as well as cooperation on the part of other developing and emerging countries.”

“The decision to host the Global South-South Development Expo in the UAE is apt as it underlines

the country’s prominent role in undertaking innumerable humanitarian initiatives worldwide. The countries of the South are among the biggest beneficiaries of UAE initiatives and support,” he added.

Thanking HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai for improving the lives of millions across the world through his humanitarian, developmental and community work, Prof. Mohammed bin Fahd pointed out that the various initiatives

launched by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Foundation have been helping to address the growing challenges faced by the Middle East and the world.

He added that the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Foundation, was one of the largest humanitarian initiatives internationally, which encompasses various sectors including: the fight against poverty and disease; knowledge dissemination; community empowerment and the use of innovation as a tool to improve



the lives of human beings. The Foundation brings together all the initiatives that His Highness has launched and patronized for over 20 years, so as to unify the goals and mobilize available resources and maximize their impact in line with the challenges of the world's current stage.

"More than 130 million men, women and children in 116 countries have benefited from these initiatives that have carried out more than a 1400 developmental programmes in collaboration with more than 280 strategic partners all of which are available for the countries of the South," he added.

The experience of the UAE in becoming a trendsetter for

sustainable development in the region has clearly shown that leadership is the basis for development, he remarked. "Without leadership there can be no sustainable development. Conducting the 2016 GSSD Expo is proof of the UAE's leadership and its adherence to the principles of tolerance that has seen diverse nationalities, cultures and religions, working together and contributing to the betterment of the country."

"We are keen on achieving integration amongst countries of the South," said Dr. Bin Fahad. "We know the problems but we are trying to find real solutions that are tangible, to prove there are leaders who are really leading the way."

The South South Expo is not to be seen as a mere conference; it exemplifies the UAE Vision 2021 wherein the Government wants to ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment, and to achieve a perfect balance between economic and social development, he added.

Speaking of the achievements of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, Dr. Bin Fahad said, "Our efforts since our inception in 1999 work on establishing the principle of wise leadership to achieve sustainable development."

He stated that as host of the GSSD Expo 2016, the Zayed Foundation comes with a



“We are keen on achieving integration amongst countries of the South.”

- Dr. Mohammed bin Fahad

Chairman, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



message of peace and love. “These are the ideals and the message of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Fahyan, the founding President of the UAE, whose name the Foundation bears. We are trying to prove that the UAE leadership and people together are keen on supporting the concepts of justice, equality and harmony between people.”

The 2016 Global South-South Development Expo is an excellent opportunity to showcase to other countries the success the UAE has achieved in the field of sustainable development, he said. “The SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. Improving access to technology

and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. I hope that the 2016 GSSD Expo will contribute strongly in providing ample resources for developing Southern economies to achieve their goals of sustainable growth and development.”

Completing the Global Goals hinges on boosting the exchange of knowledge among countries of the Global South. The global South produces half of the world’s economic output, holds \$5 trillion in reserves and accounts for 47 percent of global trade, of which about half is South-South trade. Despite the strong performance of many developing countries, poverty eradication remains the greatest

challenge facing Southern countries, even the fast-growing emerging economies.

Since its inception in 2008, the GSSD Expo has actively showcased and promoted best practices from hundreds of partner countries, United Nations agencies, private-sector enterprises and civil society organizations.



Cover Story

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HH Sheikh  
Mohammed  
lauded for  
his visionary  
leadership



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment lauds the visionary leadership of the Ruler of Dubai at the High-Level Leadership Round Table held at GSSD Expo 2016 on 31st October.

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Prize for the Environment, hailed the insightful vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai at the interactive High-Level Leadership Round Table that was held at the Sheikh Rashid Hall at Dubai World Trade Centre on 31st October in conjunction with the opening of the Global South South Development Expo 2016.

Hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment,

the GSSD Expo is a powerful platform to promote cooperation across the Global South, while supporting developing countries in their sustainable development aspirations.

As a discussant at the High-Level Leadership Round Table, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar brought into focus the pioneering model of leadership embodied by HH Sheikh Mohammed to achieve the ambitions and aspirations of the UAE. Describing the Ruler of Dubai as a global and visionary leader, she said that the “leadership in Zayed Foundation

stems from the strong and actionable vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed who founded the Zayed Prize in 1999 to carry forward the legacy of sustainable development practiced by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE.”

“When HH Sheikh Mohammed set up the Zayed Prize, he envisioned it to include all the stakeholders of the society including the global leaders in environment and sustainable development, meritorious individuals in the fields of science and technology,





The past two decades have given credence to South-South cooperation, with its rapid growth in terms of scale, geographic reach and intensity.

and people at the forefront of grassroots movements across the world. These formed the broad framework within which the various categories of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment were outlined,” said Dr. Al Awar.

“However, as priorities change, and in accordance with the UAE’s National Agenda for Youth that was unveiled by HH Sheikh Mohammed last month, the Zayed International Prize for the Environment will be celebrating its first Youth category hopefully early next year as we believe that

empowering the youth will drive our nation’s progress,” she said.

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar also spoke of the strong global partnerships that the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment had forged through the course of several years.

“These partnerships with different UN organizations as well as other regional and international entities have enabled the Zayed Foundation in its long journey in delivering on its commitment to sustainable development and also taking on the challenges for

meeting the goals of UAE Vision 2021,” she added.

Both the Zayed Prize and the Zayed Foundation have “risen above the stereotypes and utilizing all the tools and resources in its possession have worked towards achieving and looking forward to setting new and positive milestones in sustainability,” she continued.

“Today, we are celebrating our partnership with the United Nations Office for South South Cooperation by hosting this historic event in the UAE which



until now, was only held by UN entities. We are looking forward to fruitful deliberations over the next four days to have strong outcomes and recommendations from our regional, national and international partners which will then be carried forth to the next level at the United Nations," she concluded.

As the international community begins the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is important to take stock of the numerous contributions of South-South cooperation to development, and identify priority areas for South-South cooperation, towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whose overarching objective is to rid the world of hunger and poverty

in a sustainable fashion by 2030. It is against this backdrop that the High-Level Leadership Roundtable at the 2016 Global South-South Development Expo discussed "Priorities for South-South cooperation in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Speaking at the event, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), pointed out that when looking at capacity development for South South nations, issues of hunger, health and structural

transportation amongst a host of other pertinent socio-economic issues, are brought into focus. However, the challenge lies in taking the solutions from the developing world to the South South countries, adapting it to their specific needs and enabling them to derive benefits from it."

Especially in the field of technology, he added, "it has been proved beyond doubt that it cannot be transplanted per se. Innovative measures need to be developed to to adopt technological solutions and make it affordable to have a far-reaching impact on the South South nations."

Dr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram,  
Former Assistant Director-



Under the visionary leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed, Dubai has been transformed into an international role model for success and sustainability, making use of renewable energy and providing a clean environment.



General and Coordinator for Economic and Social Development in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, pointed out in his address that while South-South cooperation is now recognized as an important complementary source not only of financing of global and regional development, but also of knowledge and experience on critical development challenges overcome in specific countries, much more can be done as far as mitigation is concerned.

“Two billion people have no access to modern energy. This can be overcome by making renewables affordable,” he said.

Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, UNEP Deputy

Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, spoke of the need for reorganizing the finance system to a green system to adhere to the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. “In today’s world, all investments are fossil fuel dependent and therefore there is an urgent need to shift to clean technology that includes sustainable transport, technology for waste management, water management, etc.”

The Leadership Round Table of the GSSD Expo 2016 offered a unique platform for bringing together key stakeholders at the crossroads of global development. Other participants at the Round Table included Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General,

UNESCO; Mr. Doug Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Mr. Patrice I. Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Group of States; and Ambassador Elshad Iskandarov, President of the Islamic Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation.



Cover Story

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creating green communities

## Zayed Foundation calls for enhanced cooperation to achieve SDGs



The South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are at the centre of strategies to achieve the SDGs, said Dr. Meshgan Al Awar at the High-level DG Forum held on 3rd November at the 2016 GSSD Expo.

**T**he mutual benefits of constructive and sustainable partnerships were underlined in a speech made by Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Prize for the Environment, at the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) held in conjunction with the United Nations Global South South Development Expo 2016 on 3rd November.

The eighth annual DG Forum brought together Director-Generals from cooperation agencies of national governments

of the South and the North that are already working on South-South and triangular cooperation or are ready to start such cooperation in the near future. The DG Forum was intended to facilitate learning exchanges on policy, strategy, institutional, financial and tools for South-South and triangular cooperation as well as management capacity.

The Forum also offered a partnership building opportunity for scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.

The High-level Forum of Directors

General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) was held under the theme 'Strengthening Policy and Management for the Implementation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards Attainment of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

In her opening address at the DG Forum, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar welcomed each and every member present to Dubai, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.





For the first time the DG Forum was thrown open to all interested practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation in a plenary setting.

“During the past few days we have discussed the importance of new and old partnerships to help us achieve Sustainable Development Goals,” she said.

“I would like to emphasise that no matter what the partnerships are; the reality is that a government in each country plays a critical role in pooling together the collective efforts of its citizens regardless of whether they are in communities, civil society or the private sector.”

Building bridges for such local partnerships may not always

be easy, she pointed out. “I am pleased that this Forum will review and discuss such issues as strengthening of coordinating institutions for South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to make them fit for the purpose to lead development cooperation.

The DG Forum will afford government representatives an opportunity to exchange ideas and knowledge among each other and the partners that they have to engage in each country.”

Dr. Al Awar said she hoped that “out of these deliberations we will

have some bankable proposals that will help to strengthen the management and implementation of South-South and triangular Cooperation.”

“I want to conclude by stating that discussions we have had have also clearly showed that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are at the centre of strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and I hope that coordinating government departments continue to get capacity building to enable them to lead this effort in each country towards our



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creating green community

cherished objective of leaving nobody behind.”

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar also thanked the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for supporting this important Forum.

Several concrete agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), or letter of exchanges were signed by interested Director Generals, and partners at the conclusion of the 8th Annual DG Forum, which was part of the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo that concluded on 3rd November.

The team also said they will closely collaborate with their counterparts

in the World Expo 2020.

“We want the Expo 2020 to be one of the greatest and most successful events of its time, and our contribution towards this will be highly achievable,” said Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.

“The Global South-South Development Expo has established itself as a powerful platform to promote cooperation across the Global South, while supporting developing countries in their sustainable development aspirations,” said Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and

Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Speaking at the ongoing Global South-South Development Expo in Dubai, Mr. Gettu expressed his thanks to the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, who, on the behalf of the Government of the UAE, is co-hosting the Expo with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

It was in response to a dire need to create a space for Director-Generals and practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to discuss how to improve South-South and triangular cooperation and to facilitate innovative partnership



Several concrete agreement including Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or letter of exchanges were signed by interested DGs and partners during the DG Forum.



among all stakeholders, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) jointly launched the DG Forum during the first GSSD Expo in 2008. Since then, the DG Forum has been an integral part of the GSSD Expo.

For the first time the DG Forum was thrown open to all interested practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation in a plenary setting. Participants at the 2016 DG Forum included Mr. Jorge Chediek- Envoy of the Secretary-General and Director of the UN Office for South-South cooperation, Mr. Yasushi Kanzaki, Vice President of JICA, H. E. Mr. Ramil Hasanov, Secretary-General of Turkic Council, Mr. Getachew

Engida- Deputy Director-General of UNESCO and H.E. Mr. Richard Nduhuura – President of the High-level Committee for the Review of South-South Cooperation.

**The 8th DG Forum had three segments:**

- (a) Experiences on policy making and institutional setting for South-South Cooperation towards 2030 Agenda. This included national practices covering South-South and triangular cooperation in national development plans, national strategies/visions and national 2030 agenda implementation strategies. The need for improvements in both qualitative and quantitative measures was also discussed.
- (b) Strengthening capacity development in management of South-South and triangular cooperation. This included consultative processes for capacity building and scaling up South-South solutions.
- (c) Tools for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation (both technical and financial tools). Examples of these included practices by national and regional institutions in developing guidelines and manuals for South-South cooperation. The financial tools include funds (especially those created by regional cooperation organisations) and any supporting funds from the North for triangular cooperation.

## Cover Story

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creating green communities

Zayed Foundation  
strengthens  
partnership ties  
with UNOSSC



[The Zayed Foundation and UNOSSC are set to launch a multimedia publication that will highlight the leadership of the UAE in the sharing of South South Cooperation for effective development.](#)

**“The Zayed Foundation’s solidarity with developing countries and the South South Cooperation will continue well beyond 2030 to improve the lives of billions of people around the world.”**

**T**he Zayed International Foundation for the Environment will work closely with United Nations Office for South South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to publish a special edition of its South-South in Action series entitled ‘UAE Solutions: South-South and Triangular Contributions to Sustainable Development’. This was announced at a press conference held on 3rd November to mark the closing ceremony of the eighth annual 2016 Global South-South Development Expo.

Making the announcement,

Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, said, “This multimedia publication will highlight the leadership of the UAE in the sharing of South-South cooperation for effective development and will include a collection of all the solutions, strategies and lessons learned showcased at the GSSD Expo 2016.”

Hailing the new publication as a “legacy of the GSSD Expo and its partnership with the Zayed





The overarching theme for the 2016 GSSD Expo is "South-South Cooperation: Towards an innovative Synergy for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

Foundation", Jorge Chediek also added that this year's event was made possible by the Dubai-based Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the United Arab Emirates.

"We are eternally grateful to the Zayed Foundation's senior management for its leadership, hospitality and untiring efforts which made this Expo a resounding success on all levels," said Chediek.

He also pointed out that the 2016 GSSD Expo was the largest expo in its eight-year-long history.

Attended by more than 650 delegates from over 90 countries – representing Member States, United Nations entities, NGOs, the private sector, civil society and academia – the GSSD Expo 2016 was one of most successful GSSD Expos to date. The wide range of activities provided an opportunity for all stakeholders of South-South development to connect and enhance mutual learning from solutions with a proven impact on the ground. In addition, throughout the GSSD Expo 2016, the exhibition floor showcased nominated successful and innovative Southern-

grown development solutions – considered to be best practice examples of the current and potential strength of South-South cooperation.

Confirming the Zayed Foundation's solidarity with the UNOSSC, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, pointed out that the organization will continue to work with the UNOSSC and strengthen their partnership by focusing on how to take the discussions at the GSSD Expo forward and bring action,



cooperation and collaboration with meaningful results.

“Hosting the GSSD Expo 2016 is not the end of our commitment to the office of the South South Cooperation,” he reiterated. “We will continue to work towards building stronger learning networks by sharing ideas and knowledge on development with each other and other developing countries around the world.

“The South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development and offers viable opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth

and sustainable development. As such, our partnership with UNOSSC will be fruitful for the larger good of mankind as a whole.”

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahad suggested the selection of one leader every year to be honored at each annual edition of the GSSD Expo.

“This individual need not necessarily be from any government; it could be a civil society member, an activist at an NGO or the private sector or representing any of the stakeholders - but it should be someone who has made a valuable contribution to showcase their knowledge about best practices and innovative

South South development solutions.”

Speaking at the press conference, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Prize for the Environment, said that “without the vision and leadership exhibited by our Chairman, we wouldn’t be here today.” She thanked Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahad for his full-fledged support and total commitment in making the GSSD Expo 2016 a grand success.

“The Zayed Foundation’s solidarity with developing countries and the South South Cooperation will continue well beyond 2030 to improve the lives of billions of people



“The Zayed Foundation’s solidarity with developing countries and the South South Cooperation will continue well beyond 2030 to improve the lives of billions of people around the world.”



around the world,” she asserted. “South-South Cooperation is an instrument to enhance access to technology and innovation for developing countries, to build national capacity and, more broadly, to support the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”

Enhancing partnerships with a diverse group of institutions is one of the drivers of change and the Zayed Foundation will enhance its partnership to leverage additional resources and expertise to increase the development impact in the global South South countries, she added.

“The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

chose to host the GSSD Expo 2016, because it was seen as a powerful tool to promote cooperation across the Global South, and we would like to continue to extend our support and that of the UAE towards achieving the sustainable development aspirations of the developing countries,” said Dr. Al Awar.

“Through the successful hosting of this event, the Zayed Foundation has been firmly entrenched itself on the international map for its commitment to the implementation of the ambitious and transformative agendas that are shaping our world. It has been proved beyond doubt that South South Cooperation will play a

key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

“Transforming our world will take concerted efforts by all stakeholders, and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment is keen to work together with UNOSSC to be an integral part of an inclusive global partnership to realize the ambitions of these global agendas,” she concluded.



Cover Story

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

GSSD Expo 2016  
concludes with  
appeal for increased  
collaboration among  
developing countries



More than 700 delegates from 90 countries confront critical challenges to achieving the “Global Goals” of sustainable development at GSSD Expo 2016.

With eminent leaders championing South-South and triangular cooperation, including government officials, leaders of the United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other prominent leaders of Southern initiatives sharing their future perspectives and planned commitments to South-South cooperation in going forward, the closing ceremony of the 2016 Global South-South Development Expo held at the Dubai World Trade Centre was a celebration of the event’s successes.

Breaking the old paradigm of “North-South” development support, the United Nations has, for the 8th year in a row; the 2016 Global South-South Development Expo was hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates in Dubai.

The annual event, which hosted more than 20 UN agencies and over 70 other partner organizations showcasing their best practices, also included a series of 16 “solution forums” where key stakeholders from

throughout the Global South engaged with their counterparts to exchange knowledge and experiences on a wide range of issues including food security, public-private partnership, green technology transfer, economic growth, industrial innovation, global health, youth empowerment, and peace-building.

The solutions, presented within the framework of the overarching theme of the Expo, covered several areas, including the environment, development, youth employment, health,





A manifestation of solidarity amongst developing countries, South-South cooperation continues to significantly drive progress.

trade, investment, labour and agriculture, as well as fiscal and economic policies.

The ultimate goal of the four-day Expo 2016, which concluded November 3, was to help shape the UN's post 2015 development agenda, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring universal education and health care, a cleaner global environment, gender empowerment and the elimination of economic inequalities, among several others.

The 2016 GSSD Expo closing ceremony commenced with a video showcasing the efforts made by the host organization, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, in the run up to the main event. It also featured speeches by leaders from the United Nations development system, and other prominent officials including a select number of government ministers, senior representatives of the business and development assistance agencies.

"Since its inception in 2008, the Global South-South Development

Expo has established itself as a powerful platform to promote co-operation and partnerships across the Global South in support of developing countries' sustainable development aspirations," said Tegegnework Gettu, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

Speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Ambassador Komate Kamalanavin of Thailand, said the GSSD Expo comes at a crucial point in time as "we embark on our collective journey towards a sustainable future" following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda



for Sustainable Development, as well as other development-related global frameworks during the course of 2015, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the recently adopted New Urban Agenda.

“It is critical that we increase our efforts to maximize the potentials of South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards this regard so that no one and no developing country will be left behind at the end of our journey,” he declared.

As a platform for systematic showcasing of development

solutions, this GSSD Expo under the theme “Enhancing Innovation towards Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” has proven to be able immensely contribute to the networking among developing countries for address common development challenges by bringing together result-based solutions and evidence-based initiatives along with various stakeholders during the course of the past four days, the ambassador said.

“Discussions during the course of this Expo had revolved around how we could enhance and implement effective capacity-building initiatives in developing countries to support national development objectives geared

towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as well as how to facilitate the application of science, technology and innovation to development through enhanced South-South knowledge sharing in these areas”, he noted.

Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, said 38 years ago, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Member States entrusted the United Nations to support technical cooperation among developing countries through BAPA – the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

This year, Member States called



The GSSD Expo 2016 was one of the major international events showcasing some of the achievements and best practices of both South-South and Triangular Cooperation.



for the commemoration of BAPA+40 in 2018, where we will focus South-South efforts toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“This Expo is a collective response to Member States demand for all partners to engage in and support South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs.”

“Since we launched the Expo in 2008 together with UNDP at UN headquarters in New York, the Expo has grown to become a global and United Nations system-wide platform. For this,

we are indebted to the World Bank, ILO, FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, and OAS for hosting annual Expos drawing attention to South-South successes within their respective focus areas.”

The GSSD Expo has proved effective in bringing together development partners to establish inclusive and innovative partnerships—South-South, North-South, triangular and public-private partnerships, he noted.

“This year, for the first time the Expo is being hosted by a country of the South,” he declared.

He said South-South cooperation has gained a new centrality with respect to the 2030 Agenda. “We

have a new global commitment that requires a broad global partnership to achieve.”

Patrick Ignatius Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), said in his closing statement that in the 2016 GSSD Expo week, Dubai was “turned into the capital of the Global South with intense and critical debates, sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices, forging and enhancing partnerships.”

“In sharing our experiences, best practices and knowledge,” he said, “we were able to learn from each other on how we can better face the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.”

Cover Story

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

UN community hails  
Zayed Foundation  
for successful  
hosting of GSSD  
Expo 2016



On behalf of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, delivers closing remarks during the concluding ceremony of the GSSD Expo 2016 on 3rd November.

Distinguished and powerful champions of South-South cooperation commended the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment for the painstaking work undertaken by the organization in hosting the Global South South Development Expo 2016, and also applauded the Zayed Foundation team for bringing together a network of prominent speakers who shared their expertise at the highly stimulating and engaging conference.

Every keynote speaker at the closing ceremony session held on

3rd November at the Dubai World Trade Centre appreciated the efforts of the Zayed Foundation for its efficient and proactive hosting of the event, and for the hospitality extended to each and every one of the visitors.

“We are eternally grateful to the Zayed Foundation’s senior management for its leadership, hospitality and untiring efforts which made this Expo a resounding success on all levels,” said Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the UN

Office for South-South Cooperation.

Delivering a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Mr. Komate Kamalanavin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Kingdom Of Thailand to The United Arab Emirates, offered congratulations on behalf of the Group to the Government of the UAE, in particular the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment,” for the successful convening of this very important forum to exchange views and experiences on South-South Cooperation.”





South-South Cooperation helps developing countries to take transformative and collective steps to leapfrog into the sustainable and resilient path that will leave no one behind.

Patrick Ignatius Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), said in his closing statement that in the 2016 GSSD Expo week, Dubai was “turned into the capital of the Global South with intense and critical debates, sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices, forging and enhancing partnerships.”

He also praised the efforts of Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment who, he described as “indomitable and

indefatigable” and thanked her for the enormous amount of time and energy she put in, including late working hours to ensure the successful and seamless functioning of the event.

In her closing remarks at the conclusion of the GSSD Expo 2016, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar took the opportunity, on behalf of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, to thank each and every one present for attending and actively participating in the Expo. “Each of us is here because we are

fully committed to the sustainable development of the global South,” she said. “I think we can all agree that the discussions this week have cemented the vital role that South-South and triangular cooperation will play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, on behalf of the Government of the UAE, is proud to have hosted this Expo, she continued. “As noted by His Excellency Dr. Thani Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister for



Patrick Ignatius Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

Mr. Komate Kamalanavin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Kingdom of Thailand to the UAE

Climate Change and Environment of the UAE, in his address at the Opening Ceremony of this Expo, the UAE under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is keen to participate in all international efforts to establish sustainable solutions to environmental, economic, and social problems, which is in line with UAE Vision 2021."

"I also wish to recall the thoughts of Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment. He stressed at the opening ceremony that we in the UAE are keen on achieving integration between countries of the global South,

and are committed to working in a collaborative way to find real, tangible, and innovative solutions to development challenges," said Dr. Al Awar.

"I have been lucky enough to participate in a large number of sessions this week, on a topics ranging from environment and climate change to the empowerment of youth and skills development," she said. "What has struck me most has been the diversity of solutions and case studies presented. We now have concrete proof that innovative solutions exist. The challenge for all of us now is to support, promote, and assist with the scale up of these exciting projects and programmes."

In her concluding statement, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar said, "As we look to the days ahead beyond this Expo, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment is committed to working with all partners to meet this challenge."

Dr. Al Awar also took the opportunity to extend her thanks to Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General for South-South Cooperation and Director, UNOSSC, and his team for their many months of hard work. "It is due to their dedication that this Expo has been such a success," she concluded, adding that she hoped to see everyone again "back soon for more fruitful discussions."





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

## Lt. General Dahi Khalfan receives World Energy Environment Award

**L**t. General Dahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chief of Dubai Police and Public Security, has been recognized for his work in protecting Dubai's environment and natural resources.

The World Energy Forum, based at the United Nations in New York, has presented the World Energy Environment Award to Lt. General Dahi Khalfan Tamim for his pioneering role in environmental protection and conservation, in addition to his numerous programmes aimed at protecting natural resources and marine life.

Lt. General Tamim received the award in his office, presented by Evangeline Taylor, representative of the forum, and in the presence of senior officials.

He thanked the organizers of the award for their role in recognizing the work of the agencies and individuals who have contributed to protecting the environment. "What I have done to protect and preserve the environment stems from the inherent values enshrined by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, a man who had persevered in the UAE to create a green oasis and a model in the development and protection of the environment," Lt. General Tamim said.

Taylor praised the efforts of Dahi Khalfan in protecting the environment, and noted that he was issued this international award in light of reports that show the extent of his significant achievements in the field of environmental protection,

development and conservation.

In November 2013, Lt. General Dahi Khalfan was named the Environmental Personality and awarded the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment for his outstanding contributions to promoting environmental conservation and preservation over the years.

The Emirates Appreciation Award, launched by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, was presented to him for his long track record in environment related initiatives. He was the first to establish an environmental administration in a security institution. Other pioneering projects include the Plant One Million Trees initiative in Dubai.

## WGES 2016

36 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

### World Green Economy Summit 2016 concludes with 3rd Dubai Declaration



The launch of the World Green Economy Organization is one of the key outcomes of the 2016 Summit that was held under the patronage and in the presence of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

**T**he third edition of The World Green Economy Summit (WGES), held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, concluded on 6th October, 2016.

The Summit, held under the theme of “Driving Global Green Economy,” gathered more than 80 prominent speakers from across the globe, in addition to dignitaries and representatives from government institutions, academics, experts, and more.

WGES 2016, hosted by the Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) under the umbrella of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, in collaboration with World Climate Ltd, its international partners, is supported by the United Nations. The Summit ran in conjunction with 18th session of Water, Energy & Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and Dubai Solar Show 2016.

In the presence of Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and other senior officials, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice

Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy in Dubai, Managing Director and CEO of DEWA, and Chairman of WGES, kicked off the closing ceremony by expressing his gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his presence at and patronage of the Summit.

He also acknowledged and welcomed the launch of the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), an initiative of the Government of Dubai and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),





WGES is a platform for world and business leaders, decision-makers and others in the green economy to gather and create partnerships between the public and private sector, and to launch green initiatives.

which will be based in Dubai. “WGEO will promote the green economy concept regionally and globally through partnerships and knowledge transfer opportunities between the public and private sector, United Nations agencies, financial institutions and civil society, facilitating dialogue towards a unified green economy objective.

“The organization will also serve as a platform for climate change mitigation solutions, sustainable energy, and other water-related and environmental resources around the world.”

He extended his thanks to those that helped made the third World Green Economy Summit a success, acknowledging that there were more than 40 partners and sponsors, 80 speakers, in addition to government officials, experts and academics, in addition to 2500 participants. Al Tayer then announced the new Dubai Declaration, highlighting that it “represents our commitment to create an even smarter, greener, happier Dubai, and make it the Global Green Capital of the World.”

He then summarised the achievements of past years and

commitments for the next year, emphasising the three areas of focus for this declaration - Dubai as a global green hub in the world, global green partnerships, and green finance.

“We have launched innovative government programmes to support green economy objectives, such as the Dubai Strategy for Clean Energy 2050, which aims to diversify energy sources and raise clean energy contributions, and the Demand Side Management Programme, which aims to reduce energy and water demand by 30% in 2030,”



he said. "Dubai is continuing in international excellence through green mega-projects, particularly the announced expansion of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park to 5000 MW, making it the largest single-site solar park upon completion."

The UAE also launched the UAE Solar Programme of Activities (PoA), which also enables the registration of projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), he said, adding, "2015 also saw key innovations in green infrastructure, such as the "EV Green Charger" for electric vehicles."

In terms of future endeavours going forward, Al Tayer elaborated that DEWA would

collaborate with UNDP during the set-up phase of the World Green Economy Organization. "This is primarily to promote its position as the main reference for green economy; to promote dialogue among nations and countries on green economy practices; to provide technical support for countries in the field of green economy; and to create job opportunities in the field of green economy."

He further continued, "We will develop the 'Dubai Green Free Zone', which will be dedicated to attracting mature and emerging companies in clean energy. The Dubai Green Free Zone will become a global hub to attract R&D and innovative clean energy companies."

Dubai will continue to develop innovative business models for energy and transport, such as power purchase agreements (PPA) for solar, which already have resulted in record-breaking prices for solar energy per kilowatt-hour, he added.

"We will continue implementing "Shams Dubai Initiative" which allows customers to install photovoltaic panels on their rooftops to generate electricity from solar power, and connect the systems to the grid," he pointed out.

"We will support the global policy framework for green economy and climate action, through a commitment to keep the increase in global average



WGEO seeks to promote the green economy concept through partnerships and knowledge transfer opportunities between the public and private sector, UN agencies, financial institutions and civil society.



temperature to well below 2 C above pre-industrial levels, and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5 C,” said Al Tayer.

Al Tayer also outlined DEWA's commitment to the global climate agenda, as Dubai shared its leadership vision for the green economy and examples of policy best practices at COP21 in Paris. “Dubai Government has close collaborations with a number of international organisations including UNDP and IRENA, large businesses such as Siemens and Philips, and other cities like Copenhagen and Amsterdam to discuss best practices in PPP development,” he said.

Elaborating on the future endeavours, Al Tayer announced

that “we will contribute to the Global Climate Action Agenda by presenting Dubai's commitments and actions through the Marrakech Declaration and the State of Green Economy Report 2017. We have developed green finance expertise, through a study of global best practices for green finance, with visits to leading countries for green finance such as United Kingdom, Netherlands and Denmark.”

The Dubai Government has been creating new, innovative financing mechanisms, such as the framework for financing building retrofit developed for Etihad Super ESCO, he said. “Dubai will also launch the USD 27 Billion Green Energy Fund, based on the framework developed this

past year, which will support local, national and international projects.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, and H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, accompanied by Dr. Yousef Al Akraf, Executive Vice President of Business Support and Human Resources at DEWA, and Eng. Waleed Salman, Executive Vice President of Strategy and Business Development at DEWA, together honored the second batch of graduates from the Carbon Ambassador Programme 2015-2016.

The World Green Economy Summit concluded with the launch of the State of the Green Economy Report.

## Recognition

40 c r e a t i n g g r e e n m u n i t i

### Dubai Municipality is “Committed to Sustainability”



### Dubai Municipality becomes world's first government body to get “Committed to Sustainability” certificate

**T**he Dubai Municipality has added another feather to its record of achievements by receiving the Committed to Sustainability certification (C2S), which is awarded by the European Organization for Quality Management (EFQM).

With this, Dubai Municipality has become the first government body in the world and the first public/private sector organization in the region to obtain this certificate. The certificate is a global recognition for the earnest efforts of the Municipality in the areas of environment, social and

economic sustainability as per the international best practices.

Eng. Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director General of Dubai Municipality received the international certificate in the presence of a number of Municipality officials as well as representatives of EFQM.

“The achievement of Dubai Municipality comes from its quest towards realizing its vision to make Dubai a happy and sustainable city, which is part of the Municipality’s Strategic Plan 2016-2021 that focuses on

achieving environmental, social and economic sustainability, both internally and externally and ensure the city’s growth and excellence, and to be an innovative and world-leading municipality.

Lootah said that the Municipality is committed to sustainability in all areas of its work, and this certificate was the culmination of the constant efforts of the Municipality in achieving its leading role in maintaining sustainability.

“Dubai Municipality has





Eng. Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director General of Dubai Municipality receives the international certificate, Committed to Sustainability certification from the European Organization for Quality Management.

received this certificate after the evaluation process carried out by the EFQM through the international residents of the city according to the sustainability criteria of the organization, which included five main sustainability themes and 20 key criteria," he said.

The five themes are Management, Employees, Environment and Community, Partners and Customers.

In the field of management, Dubai Municipality works to achieve 23 strategic indicators at the level

of Dubai 2021 plan, through the implementation of its strategic plan 2016-2021, which emanates from the holistic strategic framework for sustainability, representing the five strategic goals, and 25 strategic initiatives. It is also linked to a number of specialized sub-strategies such as air quality strategy, energy strategy, solid waste management strategy, noise management programme, smart transformation strategy, community commitment strategy and energy rationalization strategy etc.

The Municipality has developed

a special department within the organizational structure for implementing sustainability and renewable energy.

It also follows up and monitors global trends and developments in the field of sustainability and conducts studies and researches to ensure the adoption of global best practices to promote sustainability and renewable energy applications, as well as strengthens organizational and community culture as per the sustainability standards and applications. In addition to that it participates in developing



sustainability standards as per the global standards, and applies in the Municipality's infrastructure, construction, energy conservation, solid and liquid waste treatment, building, environmental and agricultural projects.

The municipality is working on the application of more than 40 procedures to ensure they meet the sustainability criteria, and manages their applications through a full range of strategic and operational performance indicators, related to the rationalization of energy and water and reducing carbon emissions, governance and responsible communication and responsible procurement, human resource management, and

waste management.

On the employees front, the Municipality has adopted it as a value that supports sustainability, as it has updated 14 methodologies of human resources to meet the sustainability criteria in terms of responsible communication and justice, and is working to implement several initiatives to maintain a balance between the lives and work of male and female employees, and encourages them to exercise their daily business in a responsible, sustainable and caring way and deal with staff complaints and grievances.

To meet the Customer theme, it has launched a Charter of

communication with customers and the community, and added sustainability dimension to a number of customer relation management processes, such as designing services based on the sustainability standards such as adding inputs concerned with the environment and its impact on the service delivery standards.

As regards the Partners theme, the Municipality has adopted the criteria of responsible procurement, which means evaluating vendors based on the extent of their meeting the standards of sustainability criteria.

The Municipality also supports small and medium enterprises and youth projects. Focusing on



Dubai Municipality has received this international recognition after an evaluation process was carried out according to the sustainability criteria of EFQM, which included five main sustainability themes and 20 key criteria.



the environmental sustainability, the Municipality preserves Dubai Emirate's environment by maintaining the air quality standards, managing the natural reserves, and reducing the impact of Municipality services and activities on the environment, as well as by the rational use of energy and water sources.

The Municipality has implemented several sustainable projects such as the 100% redevelopment of the Reservoir Park, designing a sustainable city.

It has also ensured that the sustainability criteria are met in the projects like the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Sports Complex, Dubai

Frame, Dubai Safari and the specialized markets and the Municipality Centres, in addition to the project for enhancing the capacity of the sewage plants (deep tunnels), the treatment of wastewater and using it for irrigation, the Sa'fat project to assess the extent to which the green buildings meet the internationally approved standards, the waste-to-energy project, the project to treat the methane gas released from landfills, and transforming the current irrigation system to a solar-powered system.

Municipality has begun to implement a number of energy saving initiatives in its buildings through meeting green building standards and changing the

air-conditioning systems and changing the traditional light bulbs to energy saving lamps.

Lootah reiterated that the Municipality will continue to apply the global practices and initiatives in the field of sustainability as part of its vision of building a happy and sustainable city.

This is also in furtherance of the responsibilities of Dubai Municipality in the implementation of Dubai Strategic Plan 2021 towards building a smart and sustainable city in cooperation and partnership with various segments of the society concerned with the aims and activities of Dubai Municipality.



## MoU to further cooperation in innovation and smart lighting solutions

DEWA and Philips Lighting are to enhance cooperation, and exchange skills and knowledge about the latest lighting systems and building-related services, in addition to reducing energy consumption.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Philips Lighting on the first day of the 18th Water Technology, Energy and Environment (WETEX 2016) as part of DEWA's efforts to enhance innovation and support green development in Dubai.

The MoU will provide a framework to enhance cooperation, and exchange skills and knowledge about the latest lighting systems and building-related services, in addition to reducing energy consumption. HE Saeed

Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, and Paolo Cervini, President of Philips Lighting, Middle East and Turkey, signed the MoU on behalf of DEWA and Philips Lighting respectively.

"DEWA works in adherence with the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to transform Dubai into a global hub for green economy and renewable energy," said HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer. "This supports our efforts to achieve the Dubai Clean Energy

Strategy 2050."

He continued: "The strategy, launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed, will shape the energy sector in Dubai over the next three decades and provide a practical solution for addressing the environmental challenges the world is facing. This is achieved by establishing a sustainable model for energy conservation, which supports economic growth, without damaging the environment or its natural resources. This will help to transform Dubai into the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the





The agreement with Phillips Lighting demonstrates DEWA's commitment to ensure environmental sustainability and strengthen the Emirate's shift towards a green economy.

world by 2050."

The agreement with Phillips Lighting demonstrates DEWA's commitment to ensure environmental sustainability and strengthen the Emirate's shift towards a green economy, he added. "We are also involved in disseminating green practices to rationalise the consumption of electricity and water in Dubai to become part of people's lifestyle," said Al Tayer.

"For a sustainable future we, as a society, need to address the issues related to climate change.

The more we can collaborate with likeminded partners to develop and implement the latest innovations in technology, the more solutions we can find to our planet's most pressing issues. In collaboration with DEWA, Philips's innovations will support Dubai in its transformation towards a smart city that is sustainable, livable, and connected," said Cervini.

"Lighting is one area where we know we can make a difference, and our work with DEWA across its Jebel Ali and Al Awir Power Plants has been a shining example

of the gains to be made with energy efficient LED solutions for buildings, where a saving of 75% has been achieved. We look forward to unveiling further announcements and projects as we work towards our shared goals, particularly in the field of connected lighting," added Cervini.

This agreement comes at a time when DEWA has made strong strides in adopting latest renewable and clean energy systems, smart grids and spreading sustainability and smart city principles and concepts.

## Conservation

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creating green communities

### Dubai's Al Qudra Lake is home to 175 bird species



The recording of the number of bird species in the lake in Bab Al Shams desert area was carried out by wildlife specialist Dr. Reza Khan and his team from 2008 till August this year.

**T**he conservation team of Dubai Safari has so far recorded 175 species of birds from Al Qudra Lake in Bab Al Shams desert in Dubai. The team, headed by Dr. Reza Khan, Principal Wildlife Specialist in Dubai Safari, which comes under Dubai Municipality, carried out the recording during the period extending from 2008 up to August 2016.

Dr. Khan said it is the highest number of birds recorded so far from this lake and its environs extending up to a 3km radius that also include several man-

made oases created by the Engineer's Office of His Highness the Ruler of Dubai and a few small plots of natural reserves.

"The team has sighted 171 species and four species of birds have been recorded from the lake area by other birdwatchers that have been posted on [www.uaebirding.com](http://www.uaebirding.com), a website where almost all bird sightings in the UAE are reported by various birders in the UAE and abroad. So far 204 species have been noted from the whole of Bab Al Shams and Saih Al Salam desert area by all

birders in the UAE," he said.

In addition to 171 species of birds, Dr. Khan and his team also noted 73 species of plants, 26 species of reptiles and 12 species of mammals. The number of species of insects and other invertebrates are yet to be assessed.

Of the birds, the Lappet-faced Vulture and Steppe Eagle are endangered species as per the Red List of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Asian Houbara, Marbled Teal, Greater





Eight-year-long data recording finds several endangered, vulnerable species as well apart from 73 species of plants, 26 species of reptiles and 12 species of mammals.

Spotted Eagle and Eastern Imperial Eagle come under the Vulnerable List whereas Pallid Harrier, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit are near-threatened.

IUCN wants all species under the Red List categories of Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable to be considered under the conservation-dependent category of Threatened species that have highest chances of extinction risk. IUCN expects countries

having such species to provide proper protection and give management support so that their conservation status does not go down further.

Among the ten Threatened and Near-Threatened species, His Highness the Ruler of Dubai has given directives to reintroduce and manage the Houbara populations in certain parts of the Bab Al Shams desert. It is heartening to note that Houbara is now successfully breeding in the protected areas within Bab Al Shams and a few of them

occasionally visit the Al Qudra Lake environs. The remaining 165 species of birds fall under the IUCN broad category of Least Concern.

Of the 12 species of mammals, most notable are the Arabian Oryx that has started breeding in the area for a decade now. On the other hand, over 100 Arabian Mountain Gazelles and nearly 50 Reem or Sand Gazelles visit the lake area for food, water and shelter. Notable among the reptiles are the Wurral or Desert Monitor, few lizards, snakes and skinks.

## Recognition

48 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

### International Coastal Cleanup 2016 observed in Dubai



[Dubai Municipality organized a two-day cleanup operation at the Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary as part of the International Coastal Cleanup 2016 event.](#)

**T**he Environment Department of Dubai Municipality observed the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) 2016 during 27-28 October at the Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary in Ghantoot. ICC is an occasion observed with lot of beach and coastline cleanup activities all over the world.

“The Municipality’s participation in the initiative was aimed at raising public awareness on the importance of coastal and beach areas, in addition to highlighting the problems and threats to this fragile environment,” said Eng. Alya Al Harmoudi, Director of the

Environment Department at Dubai Municipality.

She said that the coastal and marine environment in all parts of the world are among the ecosystems that go through tremendous environmental stress and pressure, and the most important threats to those environments are the accumulated waste resulting from human activities or the waste that gets washed away by wind and waves from other regions to end up on the beaches or sink under the water destroying the marine environment and making the

water polluted.

Al Harmoudi added that Dubai Municipality has a complete system of programmes for sustainable management of coastal zones and spares no effort to update its programmes, which contribute to the preservation of coastal areas and develop them in a sustainable manner.

The Environment Department is participating in the ICC event for the second consecutive year with the support of Emirates Marine Environmental Group and under



The clean-up operations this year saw the participation of more than 500 volunteers from academic institutions and the private sector.

the patronage of United Parcel Services.

The clean-up operations this year saw the participation of more than 500 volunteers from academic institutions and the private sector, including Nakheel, Le Meridien Hotel, Dive Zone, Filipino Scuba Divers Club, and Majid Al Futtaim – Carrefour Dubai.

The volunteers from public and private schools included students of four government schools, especially in the Emirate of Dubai – Al Khulafa Al Rashideen School, Al Ahamadiyya Model School, the

Second of December School and the JSS Global School.

Total waste collected during the two-day cleanup operations was two tons, of which 200 kg was from the seabed. Plastic waste accounted for 70% of the total waste collected and the rest was other general waste such as timber.

“The event was organized at the Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary to draw attention to the role that natural reserves play in general and marine reserves in particular for its important

role in maintaining ecological balance and protecting the many biological systems in them,” said Aisha Al Murr Al Muheiry, Head of Natural Resources Conservation Section.

“The Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary was declared as a protected natural marine reserve in 1998 in order to maintain the marine natural resources, and was classified according to the standards of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as a natural habitat and species management area,” she said.



## Green Finance

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### UAE's financial institutions sign Dubai Declaration on Sustainable Financing

Eight banks in the UAE have signed an agreement to expand funding sustainable projects over the course of the next five years.

**T**he UAE's financial institutions participating at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative's 14th Global Roundtable, have signed the Dubai Declaration on Sustainable Financing.

With the signing of the declaration on 25th October 2016, they have also confirmed their support for the UAE Vision 2021, and for transforming the national economy to a green economy in accordance with the UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030. The signatories also stressed the

need for co-operation between the financial sector, the UAE government, UNEP and other relevant institutions to contribute to the process of transformation.

This can be done by improving corporate environmental and societal performance, providing economic, environmental and social opportunities, lend, invest, facilitate financing, or provide insurance to the projects, businesses and customers with sustainable purposes.

It could also be done by supporting the growth of a successful small

and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector, as well as taking into account climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk in the institution's risk management processes.

This came up at the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative's 14th Global Roundtable event, which was inaugurated on 25th October 2016 by Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment. The two-day event is being hosted by the UAE, represented by the Ministry of Climate Change and





A group of the country's banks has come together to fund sustainable projects amid a potential Dh10 billion financing gap.

Environment, in collaboration with the UAE's Central Bank, in Dubai.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Al Zeyoudi extended thanks and gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, for his patronage of the event and his continued support for the efforts to transform UAE's national economy to a green low-carbon economy.

"We are meeting here today to continue the discussion of funding sustainable development projects and we all hope to contribute

to the positive atmosphere created by the globally accepted Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change to overcome the obstacles of securing the necessary funding for the process of transformation, especially in the least developed countries," he said.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi indicated that the issue of financing green investments is the main approach in the UAE Green Development Strategy, launched by Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin

Rashid Al Maktoum.

Mubarak Rashid Khamis Al Mansouri, Governor of the Central Bank, said, "Achieving a green economy requires the contribution of the private sector to invest in several projects, not only in the renewable energy sector, but also in various green and eco-friendly business areas. We need to work towards improving the bank financing for green projects in the UAE, and to find the best way to contribute to the government's efforts to change the flow of investments in the field of sustainability.

## Launch

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creating green communities

### Dubai Municipality launches Dubai Lamp Initiative



(From right to left): Paolo Cervini, President of Philips Lighting, Middle East and Turkey, Eng. Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director General of Dubai Municipality and Rami Hajjar General Manager, Philips Lighting Middle East at the launch of Dubai Lamp Initiative.

### World's most energy efficient commercially available LED lamp unveiled in Dubai at WETEX 2016.

Under the directives of the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Municipality and Philips Lighting have announced the launch of Dubai Lamp, the world's most energy efficient commercially available LED lamp during the Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX 2016) held at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The launch was unveiled on 5th October 2016 by Eng. Hussain

Nasser Lootah, Director General of Dubai Municipality and Paolo Cervini, President Philips Lighting Middle East & Turkey.

The Dubai Lamp Initiative is the result of a unique research partnership between Philips Lighting and Dubai Municipality, resulting in the development of the world's first commercially available 200 lumen per watt LED lamp.

These are available in a variety of widely used shapes and colours. The initiative underlines Dubai's commitment to becoming the world's most sustainable city.

By replacing conventional lamps with Dubai Lamp, households and enterprises can reduce energy used for lighting by up to 90%. Besides raising light and energy efficiency to new levels, Dubai Lamp is extremely durable with an average lifespan of up to 15 times longer than conventional lamps.

The lamps will be widely available in Dubai before the end of the year in four versions both in cool daylight and warm white colors. With these versions, the Dubai Lamp could replace 80% of conventional lamps used in Dubai homes. Dubai Municipality and Philips Lighting





The Dubai Lamp Initiative is the result of a unique research partnership between Philips Lighting and Dubai Municipality

are preparing for the supply of two million Dubai Lamps for residential and professional use across the city in 2017. This could increase to 10 million lamps by 2021.

Speaking at the launch, Eng. Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director General of Dubai Municipality said: "His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum has always been keen to promote such green initiatives designed to encourage sustainable development. The Dubai Lamp Initiative supports the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy which targets a 30% reduction in energy consumption by 2030

and the Dubai Carbon Abatement Strategy aimed at reducing carbon emissions by 16% by 2021."

Eric Rondolat, CEO of Philips Lighting said, "This focused and result-driven partnership with Dubai Municipality is a prime example of how a public-private partnership can deliver innovation that is practical and cost-effective for both consumer and professional markets while helping to combat the serious issue of climate change.

"Over the past three years we have worked with the Municipality to transform municipal buildings

with energy efficient LED lighting. This initiative is a natural next step, which will help to set a new benchmark in energy efficiency and sustainable development in Dubai."





## First Scimitar-horned Oryx born on native soil in Chad in decades

**A** Scimitar-horned Oryx calf has been born in its native land, in the Sahelian grasslands of Chad, for the first time in nearly 30 years. The Scimitar horned Oryx was classified Extinct in the Wild by the IUCN in 2000.

This accomplishment is part of the Scimitar-horned Oryx Reintroduction Programme, which is being led by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), in collaboration with the government of Chad and their local implementing partner, the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF).

The calf's mother was part of the first herd that were translocated from a world herd at The Environment Agency - Abu

Dhabi's breeding centre. Collared with GPS transmitters, scientists from EAD, SCF, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) are able to track the location and behaviour of the population. The new-born was eagerly awaited and spotted during field monitoring over the past few days.

The Oryx is currently the youngest of the herd, but not for long. It is expected that more calves are to be delivered on Chadian soil in the near future.

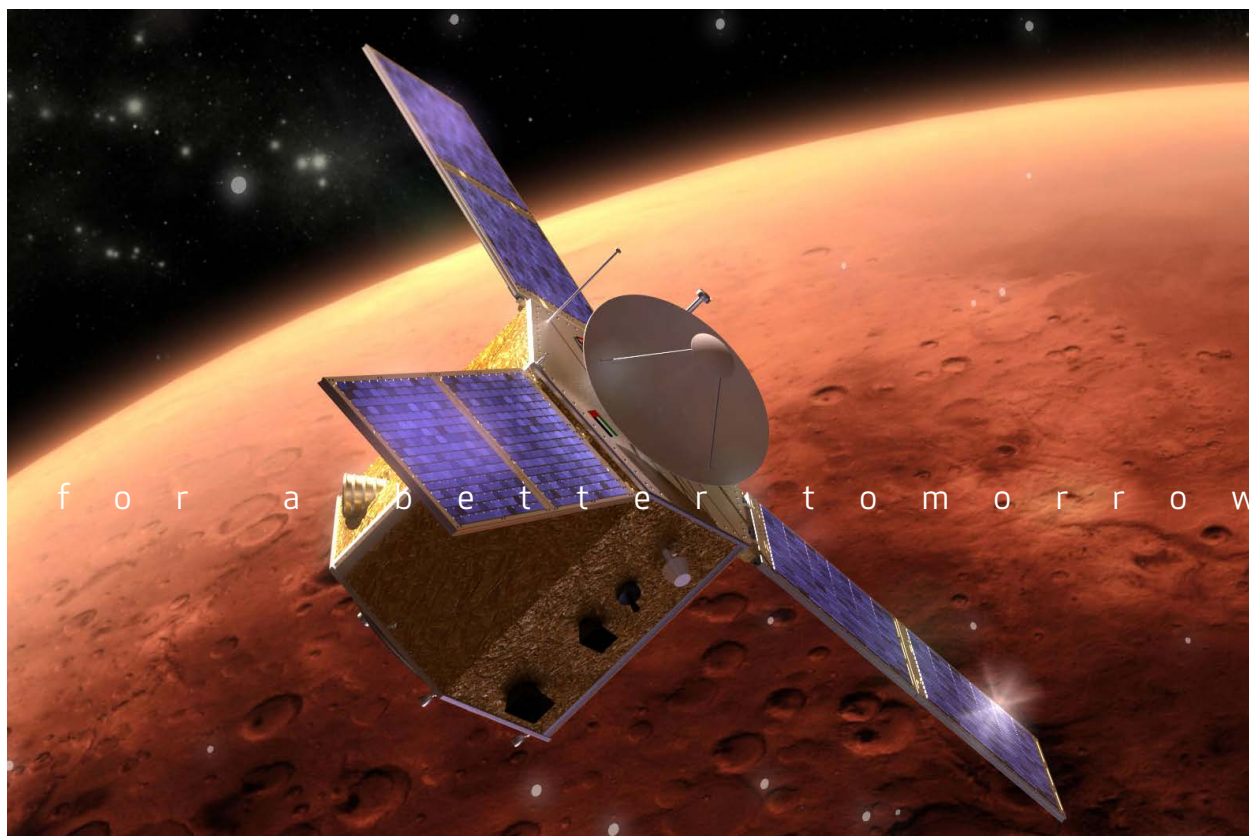
Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, EAD's Secretary General commented: "This really is wonderful news for the entire global conservation community. The Scimitar horned

Oryx was the largest mammal to become extinct in the wild over the past 25 years. We aim to have a self-sustaining population of 500 Scimitar horned Oryx in Chad in the next five years. To have a population that is already self-generating is a very positive sign for the future success of this project, but also a beacon of hope for the conservation community."

The Scimitar-horned Oryx are adapted to high temperatures, harsh environments and can live for a long periods without drinking water. The desert antelope was hunted to extinction and killed during times of civil unrest in Chad and neighbouring regions. They were once widely distributed across the Sahel, from Senegal to Sudan.



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



## Ruler of Dubai approves 20 strategic initiatives for Emirates Scientists Council

**W**ith the aim of creating a conducive environment for innovation and scientific research in the country, and develop a generation of Emiratis scientists and researchers for the benefit of the country, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has approved 20 strategic initiatives for the Emirates Scientists Council.

“Our objective is to set our scientific and research priorities that serve our interests, cement our economy and build a future for our generations. We bet on young scientists to establish a national scientific and research platform,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed.

“Scientists and academicians are partners of the government in facing the challenges, saving costs, and making people happy,” he added.

HH Sheikh Mohammed also stressed the importance of the approved strategic initiatives as they offer a holistic scientific approach to achieve scientific excellence, hence ensure a global distinction for the UAE.

“We work today to develop a generation of UAE scientists able to compete for Nobel Prize in the next decades,” he added.

His Highness made these remarks at a meeting he chaired of the members of the Emirates Scientists Council, in the

presence of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai; Lt. General H.H Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; and many other dignitaries.

Sara Al Amiri, chairperson of Emirates Scientists Council, praised the support of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed to scientists and researchers and said that the aim is to come up with a scientific programme that prepares talented students to compete for Nobel prizes, set up a national agenda for research, Interactive national laboratories, the Mohammed Bin Rashid medal for Scientific Honour, and a national programme for discovering and developing the spirit for research.

## Recognition

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

World's food and energy systems key to tackling global biodiversity decline



[Latest findings in WWF's Living Planet Report 2016 show global wildlife populations could drop two-thirds by 2020.](#)

Global wildlife could plunge to a 67 per cent level of decline in just the fifty-year period ending this decade as a result of human activities, according to WWF's *Living Planet Report 2016*. The report shows how people are overpowering the planet for the first time in Earth's history and highlights the changes needed in the way society is fed and fuelled.

According to the report, global populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles have already declined by 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012, the

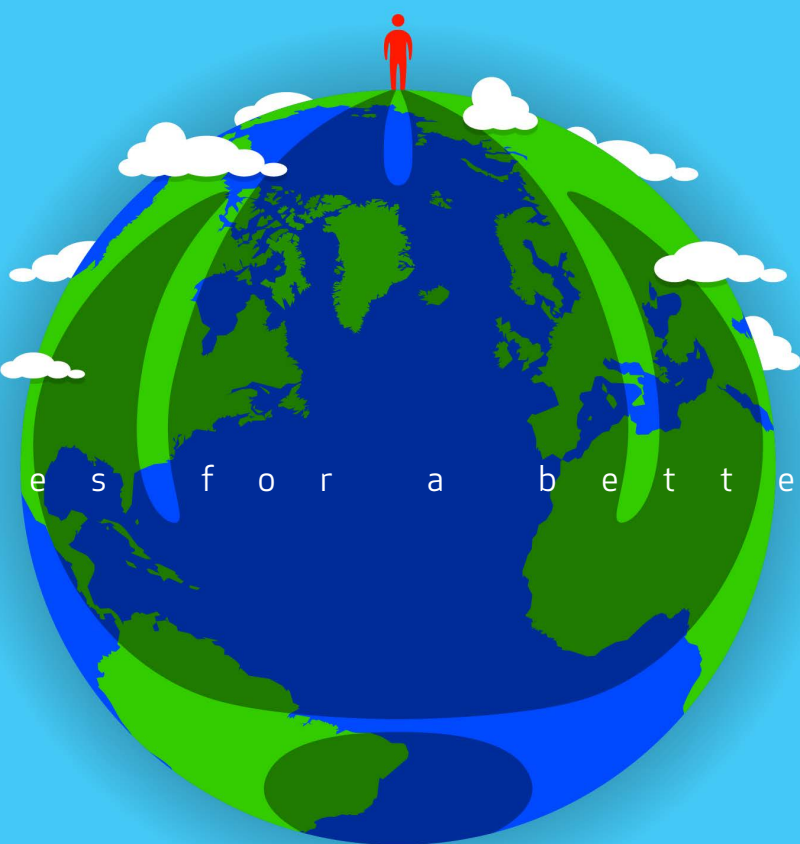
most recent year with available data. This places the world on a trajectory of a potential two-thirds decline within a span of the half-century ending in 2020.

"Wildlife is disappearing within our lifetimes at an unprecedented rate," said Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International. "This is not just about the wonderful species we all love; biodiversity forms the foundation of healthy forests, rivers and oceans. Take away species, and these ecosystems will collapse along with the clean air, water, food and climate

services that they provide us. We have the tools to fix this problem and we need to start using them now if we are serious about preserving a living planet for our own survival and prosperity."

Fortunately, 2020 is also a year of great promise. In that same year, commitments made under the Paris climate deal will kick in, and the first environmental actions under the globe's new sustainable development plan are due. If implemented, these measures, along with meeting international biodiversity targets set for 2020, can help achieve the reforms





# Can we really change the world?

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

We're shaping the future.  
What do you want it to look like?

The top threats to species identified in the report are directly linked to human activities, including habitat loss, degradation and overexploitation of wildlife.

needed in the world's food and energy systems to protect wildlife across the globe.

Ida Tillisch, Director General of Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF, also added: "The Earth provides all that we need to live and thrive. While the planet has the ability to replenish resources, these resources are exhaustible.

"As highlighted in the Living Planet Report, there is a clear challenge for humanity to alter our course so that we operate within the environmental limits of our planet and maintain or restore

the resilience of ecosystems. This won't happen overnight and requires the active participation of the whole of society including consumers, businesses and government. Business as usual is no longer an option. Collectively, we need to drive the shift towards sustainable and resilient models of production and consumption."

## **Additional evidence of a man-made era**

The top threats to species identified in the report are directly linked to human activities, including habitat loss, degradation and overexploitation of wildlife.

The report's findings provide additional evidence that the planet is entering completely uncharted territory in its history in which humanity is shaping changes on the Earth, including a possible sixth mass extinction. Researchers are already calling this period the Anthropocene. Understanding why we are moving into this new epoch enables us to identify solutions for restoring the ecosystems we depend upon.

According to the report, food production to meet the complex demands of an expanding human population is leading the race in



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the destruction of habitats and overexploitation of wildlife. At present, agriculture occupies about one-third of the Earth's total land area and accounts for almost 70 per cent of water use.

Paola Ferreira, Conservation and Climate Director at Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF commented: "The Living Planet Report provides a fresh look at risks and resilience in a new era, the Anthropocene, the 'Human Age'. As the Living Planet illustrates, human activities are reshaping our planet in profound ways. However, while we are part of the problem, we can also be part of the solution. Understanding the drivers and root causes behind biodiversity and ecosystem depletion is an

important part of finding robust and long-lasting solutions. Our long-term success will depend on our ability to cooperate across all sectors of society and our commitment to put our collective long-term sustainability before our short-term wants."

*The Living Planet Report 2016* outlines solutions to reform the way we produce and consume food to help ensure that the world is well-fed in a sustainable way. The report also focuses on the fundamental changes required in the global energy and finance systems to meet the sustainability needs of future generations.

**Pushing the planet to its limits**  
*Living Planet Report 2016*

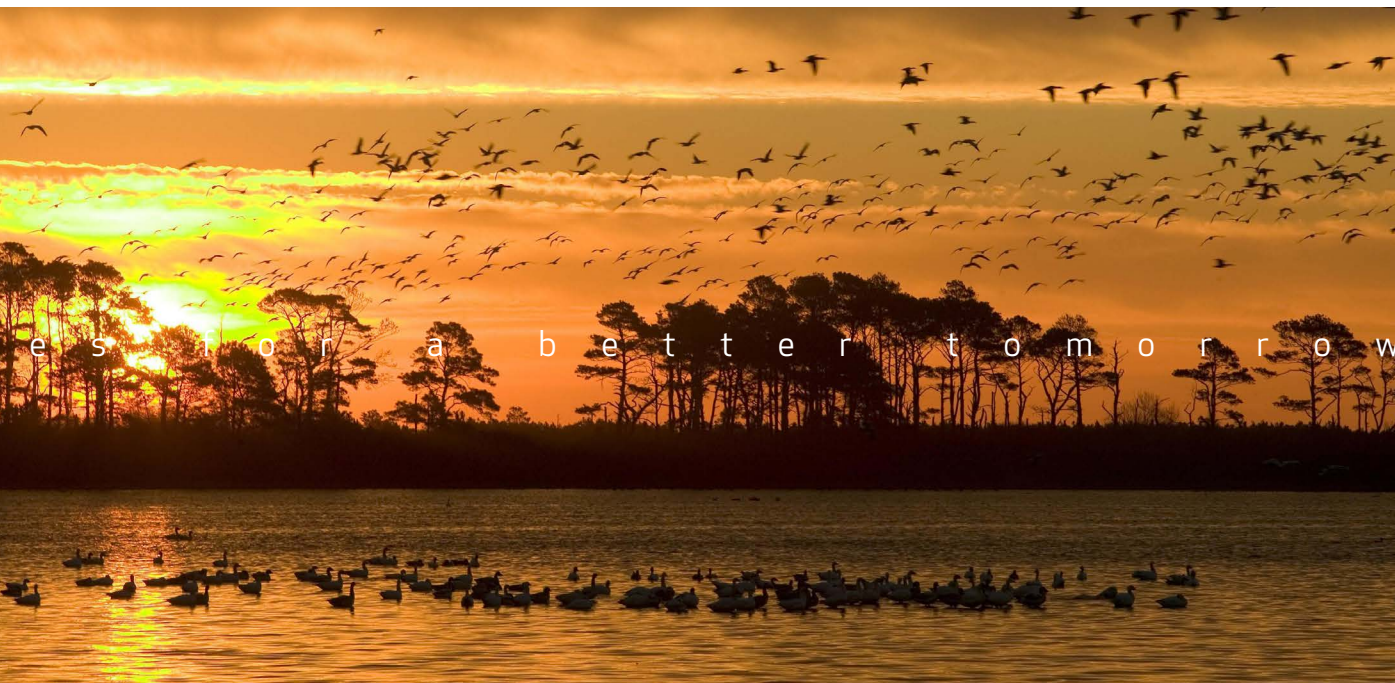
draws on leading research about the scale and impact of human activity on our planet. One such model, provided by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, demonstrates that humanity has surpassed four out of nine Planetary Boundaries – safe thresholds for critical Earth system processes that maintain life on the planet.

In a special foreword in the report, Planetary Boundaries lead researcher Johan Rockström underlines the need for an urgent transition to a world that works within Earth's safe operating space.

The report also features research from the Global Footprint Network that shows



Global populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles have declined by 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012, the most recent year with available data.



that while we only have one Earth, humanity is currently using the resources of 1.6 planets to provide the goods and services we use each year.

"No matter how you add it up, the math does not look good. The more we continue to exceed Earth's limits, the more damage we do to our own future," said Lambertini. "We are at a decisive moment in time when we can seize the solutions to steer our food, energy and finance systems in a more sustainable direction."

### Charting the way forward

The WWF report demonstrates that we need to rethink how we produce, consume, measure success and value the natural environment. Adequately

protecting the environment alongside economic and social development requires an urgent system change by individuals, businesses and governments to move from a short-sighted approach to a visionary approach that values future generations.

The report also illustrates the positive momentum that is building by highlighting recent global agreements on climate change and sustainable development.

In particular, the report recognizes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an essential guide to decision-making that can ensure that the environment is valued alongside economic and social interests.

*Living Planet Report 2016: Risk and resilience in a new era* is the eleventh edition of WWF's biennial flagship publication. The report tracks over 14,000 vertebrate populations of over 3,700 species from 1970 to 2012.





(from left) Ivano Iannelli, CEO, Dubai Carbon; HE Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy; HE Saeed Al Tayer, MD, DEWA; Waleed Salman, Chairman, Dubai Carbon.

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## UN approves UAE's Energy Efficiency Programme

Dubai Carbon has jointly announced with the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) that it has reached a major milestone to incentivize retrofit markets in the entire UAE. The UN backed Programme of Activities (PoA) framework, launched during WETEX 2016, will enable ESCO type and efficient lighting projects to earn carbon credits once included as Component Project Activities (CPAs) within the framework.

The PoAs will be managed by Etihad ESCO, the Dubai Government owned SuperESCO vehicle, with consultancy support from Dubai Carbon, which will also act as the coordinator between UNFCCC, Etihad ESCO, DSCE and CPAs. The PoA, 'Fostering

an ESCO Industry in the UAE' once registered will become an umbrella programme for small-scale ESCO type projects, that from a financial point of view otherwise may not be suitable to apply for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Project Activities.

HE Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, commented: "It is an exciting time for the UAE as we will set new benchmarks for public-private partnerships in the energy efficiency sector. This will open new opportunities for private companies to contribute towards realising the UAE's aim to become one of the most sustainable countries in the world."

Waleed Salman, Chairman, Dubai Carbon, said: "Both PoAs signed by us, will not only contribute in achieving UAE's sustainability goals, but also to meet the carbon reduction target of 16% by 2021."

Ivano Iannelli, CEO, Dubai Carbon, said, "Dubai government is providing project owners, both big and small, with an opportunity to improve the project economics and achieve UN backed Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) earned under these PoAs. The CERs are certificates designed by the UN to reward investors in energy efficiency projects, and allow investors in emission reduction projects to earn carbon credits that governments and companies can use to offset emissions."



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



## Climate wins as another global deal to limit emissions is reached

**M**ore than 170 countries – including the UAE – agreed to amend the Montreal Protocol to allow the phase out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

HFCs, used mainly in air conditioners, insulants and refrigeration equipment, are the fastest growing greenhouse gases in many countries. The agreement to limit their growth – and rapidly transition to climate-friendly alternatives – will help avoid warming by up to 0.5°C by the end of this century. It will also increase chances of meeting the objective of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

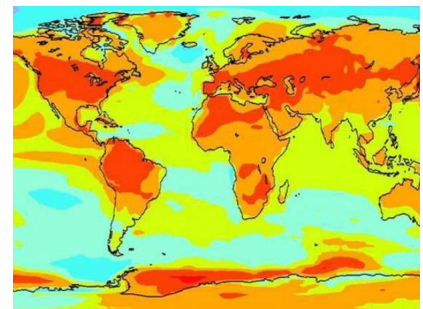
Responding to the news, Regine Guenther, interim leader of

WWF's Global Climate and Energy Practice said, "This is great news for the climate. It sends a powerful signal that our governments are serious about tackling climate change, coming as it does on the heels of the ratification of the Paris Agreement, a new deal to cap aviation emissions, and just weeks before UN climate talks resume."

Tanzeed Alam, Climate and Energy Director, Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (EWS-WWF) stated: "The phase out of hydrofluorocarbons marks yet another milestone in the fight against climate change. This announcement is a turning point for the UAE where we all rely so heavily on cooling and will continue to do so as global

temperatures keep rising.

"Air conditioning technologies will need to be more innovative and efficient at delivering cooling without costing the Earth. This also represents an untapped market opportunity for UAE businesses to support the development of innovative cooling technologies that meet climate change goals and the recent Montreal Protocol agreement."





## Emissions

62 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

New deal secures path to clamp down on aviation emissions

[Deal to clamp down on aviation emissions is a major step forward for global action on climate change.](#)

Countries at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) - the UN's civil aviation body - have formally adopted an agreement to control emissions from international aviation, putting the sector on a path toward reducing its emissions. This deal is the world's first cap on net carbon emissions of an entire global industry sector.

"Three hundred days after the gavel fell in Paris, countries are tackling a major loophole in that deal: international aviation emissions," said Lou Leonard, Interim Deputy Leader for WWF's

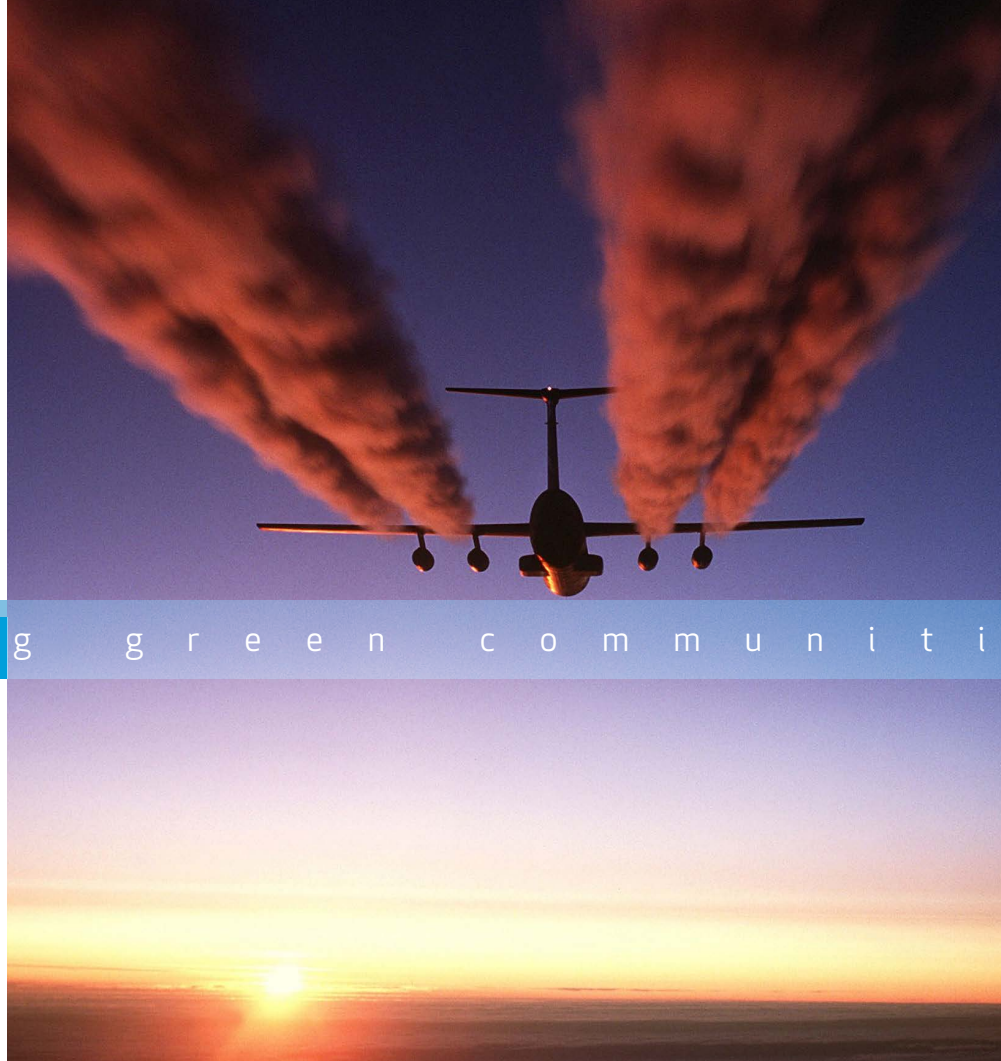
Global Climate and Energy Practice. "But we are far from the finish line in curbing carbon pollution from international aviation. This is the starting block. It's a foundation we must build on over time."

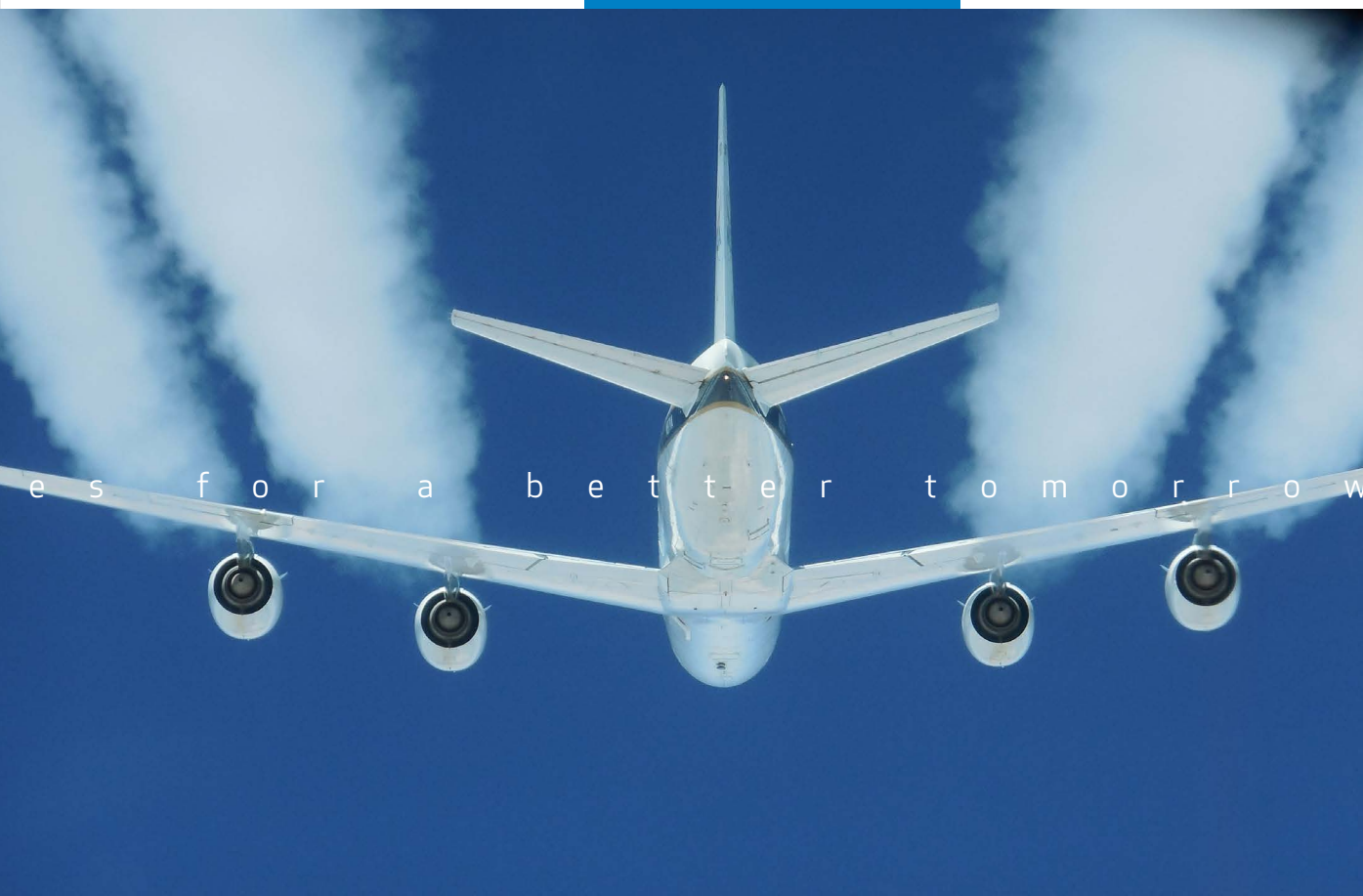
Countries negotiating the Paris Agreement held off on addressing emissions from international aviation, which fall outside of countries' domestic emissions targets, so the responsibility falls on ICAO to equitably deliver an agreement to tackle the rapidly-growing emissions from this sector. Despite this, during the

negotiation process, countries in ICAO cut out key language linking the aviation mechanism to long-term temperature goals set in Paris.

"This deal was the world's first opportunity to test whether the new Paris Agreement would change the way we do business and rally the world toward its new goals.

"Yet just hours after celebrating the Paris Agreement's early entry into force, countries at ICAO are sending mixed signals about their ambition to reduce emissions





In the final hours of the before adoption of the deal, countries demonstrated that they understand the importance of high-quality carbon offsets.

by weakening the link between the aviation mechanism and the temperature goals set in Paris,” said Leonard.

The agreement as it stands falls short of what is needed to achieve ICAO’s own goal of carbon neutral growth by 2020, let alone the ambition required by the Paris Agreement.

“Unless we accelerate our pace, emissions from international aviation will take too much of our remaining carbon budget and will restrict our ability to reach the Paris Agreement’s global

temperature goals. Countries need to build on this deal by creating new policies to ensure global aviation does its fair share and doesn’t undermine our ability to deliver on the Paris global temperature goals.

“Through an upcoming process in the ICAO environment committee, countries need to rebuild the connection between the long term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement and the emissions goals of this new ICAO mechanism,” he said.

With current participation by

governments and their airlines, more than three quarters of international aviation’s expected emissions growth (~2.5 billion cumulative tons of CO2 emissions) between 2021 and 2035 would be addressed. At least 64 countries have stepped up and opted to join this agreement.

“Countries can reaffirm their intention to deliver on the hope and the promise of Paris by opting in to this agreement. This agreement gets stronger and more effective with every country that joins.”





## Canada to host World Environment Day in 2017

Canada has demonstrated its commitment to environmental action as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, and UN Environment chief Erik Solheim announced last month that Canada will host World Environment Day in 2017.

The UN Environment-led global event, the single largest celebration of our environment each year, takes place on June 5 and is celebrated by thousands of communities worldwide. Canada will use World Environment Day to showcase to the world the beauty of its natural environment on land and water.

"The Canadian spirit of collaboration is only one of the

reasons Canada is a natural choice to host World Environment Day," The Honourable Catherine McKenna said at a launch event during the United Nation General Assembly in New York. "World Environment Day will be an important part of Canada 150 celebrations.

"On June 5, 2017, we will blend Canadians' pride in our environment with our determination to address climate change challenges. We are looking forward to showing the world the made-in-Canada approaches that will make our country cleaner and more competitive for businesses."

Canada works with its partners to address environmental issues, including climate change at

home and abroad. Hosting World Environment Day, along with plans to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as soon as possible, shows that Canada is fully behind global action to tackle the biggest environmental challenges of our time.

"World Environment Day is the day the planet celebrates our collective love of and reliance on nature," said Erik Solheim, Head of UN Environment. "It helps encourage action to protect our environment and fosters a deeper appreciation of our connection to the natural world.

"With the major environmental challenges we face, we need environmental leadership more than ever."



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



## Reforestation Africa's highest mountain could halt severe water shortages

**R**eforestation Africa's highest mountain could help protect vital water supplies that are under threat across large parts of East Africa, according to a UN Environment report that looks at the impact of climate change on the region's mountains.

Mt Kilimanjaro's forests are a vital source of water for the surrounding towns and the wider region. Water from the mountain feeds one of Tanzania's largest rivers, the Pangani, providing food, fuel and building materials to much of East Africa.

But higher temperatures as a result of climate change have increased the number of wildfires on the mountain. These fires have destroyed 13,000 hectares of

forest since 1976. Because there are now fewer trees to trap water from clouds, the annual amount of dew on the mountain is believed to have fallen by 25 per cent. This drastic decline is equivalent to losing enough drinking water to supply 1 million people every year.

The report, produced by UN Environment, GRID-Arendal, East African Community, the Albertine Rift Conservation Society and Nature-RIDD was launched at the World Mountain Forum in Uganda on 19th October 2016.

It urges Tanzania to protect Mt Kilimanjaro's water catchment area by reforesting the mountain, investing in early warning systems and making climate adaptation a top priority.

Protecting East Africa's mountain ecosystems will also help safeguard the region's vital tourism industry, which is worth \$7 billion to East Africa. The disastrous impact of climate change on East Africa's mountains can be seen in the loss of its glaciers. Since the 1990s, the surface area of glaciers in the region has decreased by 80. These glaciers are expected to vanish completely within a few decades as temperatures increase, notes the report.

The mountains of East Africa are not only highly productive agricultural areas: the rivers they feed also have significant, but largely unexploited, hydropower potential for a region crippled by a lack of electricity.



## Paris Agreement is now International Law

The Paris Climate Change Agreement has taken effect on November 4, 2016, and the international community is now determined more than ever to ensure a sustainable future.

Being the result of really complex and critical international negotiations, the agreement is considered a turning point in the history of mankind, encompassing combined political, economic and social will. The early entry into force indicates devotion to decisive global action on climate change.

The aim of COP22 is to see substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and outstanding efforts to build climate resilient societies in no more than 15 years from now to say that we are making real progress.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the average global concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has exceeded the significant milestone of 400 ppm for the first time in 2015, with new records in 2016. Hence, an immense job is ahead of the international community in order to limit global warming well below 2°C in order to prevent dangerous climate tipping points. This requires the availability and prompt deployment of the policies, technology and finance necessary to achieve these goals.

The global renewable energy industry is leading the change. This is where the UAE is really excelling and providing an ideal model. Production, construction and agricultural sectors need to follow suit, while economies and societies become more resilient to the existing climate impacts.

The Paris Agreement has changed our collective ability to enact rapid change for good. Governments are now accountable for the global set of national plans of action presented in Paris, pledging to raise their ambitious targets over time. They have the means to drive change even faster through more stronger, climate-friendly policies and incentives. A rulebook, measuring and reviewing global climate action, should be ready no later than 2018 to ensure transparency on all sides.

Technology transfer and financial support will enable developing nations to build their own sustainable, clean energy futures. Fortunately, non-party stakeholders are showing increased interest and commitment to lowering carbon emissions and supporting governments and parties in their fight against the dire effects of climate change.

We hope to see a definable pathway emerging from COP 22 for developed countries to materialize the flow of USD \$100 billion per year by 2020 in support of climate action in developing countries.

Achieving sustainable development requires US\$ 5-7 trillion a year as estimated by the UN, mostly to fund the transition to a low-carbon, resilient world economy. Hence, creative funding options are needed to fulfill such huge investment needs, and both public and private sector flows need to be aligned and scaled-up. This means allocation of tens of billions of dollars at a time towards climate investments by governments and the private sector.

The Paris Agreement has solid foundations but we have to look ahead with careful assessment and renewed will over the task ahead, hoping that the change in American policy will not have a serious impact on the global process.

**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**

**Chief Technical Advisor**

**Zayed International Foundation for the Environment**





**Zayed International Prize for the Environment**



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