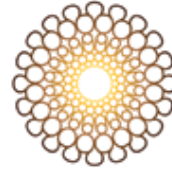


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Issue 166

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid
inaugurates the
Dubai Water Canal

Zayed Foundation launches 3rd Cycle of Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment



Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home

Chairman's Message



creating green communities for a better tomorrow

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Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

In a fresh boost for tourism and commerce, the \$735 million Dubai Water Canal was inaugurated after a three-year construction project consolidating Dubai's position as one of the world's most advanced cities.

Innovation, progress and thinking out of the box are what further exemplify this ambitious tourist and commercial showpiece that has been one of the most highly anticipated projects in recent times. Dubbed as one of world's greatest urban transformations, the Dubai Water Canal, a 3.2km long waterway that connects Dubai Creek with the Arabian Gulf, represents the culmination of three years of work and decades of planning.

This plan was originally proposed by the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the father of modern Dubai, as part of a 1959 decision to dredge Dubai Creek - a visionary move to ease marine navigation that laid the foundation for the emirate's ascent into the modern metropolis we know today.

The inauguration of the Dubai Water Canal by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai is a source of pride for the entire nation. Implementing such quality projects are part of the vision of the UAE leadership for ensuring a bright future for the country and which will also contribute to Dubai's urban expansion and boost tourism to help achieve the development objectives set by Dubai Plan 2021.

The project has been noted for its sheer grandeur and scale, involving an infrastructure overhaul of one of Dubai's busiest areas. Yet, within just three years of the launch, this major milestone has been reached.

The Dubai Water Canal is certain to enhance the lives of visitors and residents and its prominence as an urban and tourist landmark will enable it to raise the profile of Dubai as a splendid tourist attraction.

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From the **Managing Editor**



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

The UAE has cemented its position as a global hub for innovation, clearly demonstrating the aspirations of our visionary leaders who have spared no efforts in actively promoting and adopting a culture of innovation and green development agenda. Believing that innovation is the future of human investment, the UAE, under the leadership of President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vice President and Prime Minister HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has now been transformed into a melting pot for innovation, bolstering a culture of green economy in the region and around the world by serving as a leading platform for sustainability.

The recent launch of the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) by the UAE in partnership with

the UN is a step in this direction.

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has also kept pace with the UAE's passion for innovation and creativity by consistently employing the latest smart and connected solutions in an integrated and innovative manner to support the nation's highly acclaimed seven-year innovation strategy.

Through the adoption of the next generation of technology solutions, the Zayed Foundation strives to align its vision with the ambitions of the UAE's leaders who seek to make the country, one of the most innovative nations in the world by 2021. At the recently concluded GSSD Expo, for example, the Zayed Foundation employed the use of smart technology to generate greater engagement and enhance the professionalism of this global event.

The potential of the social media has also been utilized by the Zayed Foundation to build community engagement and create awareness of sustainable development goals as we work our way into a sustainable future. Using photos, animations and interactive graphics and apps, the Zayed Foundation has been guiding the society towards becoming environmental stewards of sustainable development.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and am optimistic that 2017 will, through innovative technologies, the power of reading, and planning for the future under the newly launched UAE Strategy for the Future will help to advance local and global action on environmental challenges and sustainability.

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Cover Story

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

Mohammed bin Rashid inaugurates the Dubai Water Canal



Dubai Water Canal was inaugurated after a three-year construction project costing \$735 million, in a fresh boost for tourism and commerce in the booming Gulf city state.

The Dubai Water Canal, which ranges from 80 m to 120 m in width, stretches from the Business Bay, crosses the Sheikh Zayed Road, passes Safa Park, Al Wasl Road and Jumeirah 2 and terminates at the Arabian Gulf.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, inaugurated the second phase of the Dubai Water Canal, a 12 kilometre waterway that connects Dubai Creek with the Arabian Gulf, on 9th November, 2016.

The Dubai Water Canal project has been built at a cost of AED 3.7 billion.

Crown Prince of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler

of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and a number of senior officials, senior business leaders and other dignitaries attended the launch ceremony held in a peninsula near the Jumeirah Beach Park.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said that in order to ensure the sustained development of the UAE's economic capabilities "we need to foster innovation, explore new ideas and think outside the box."

He said the UAE aspires to rank



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

Among the key features of the canal, that is up to six metres deep, are the three uniquely designed pedestrian bridges that run across the water body.

among the leading nations of the world and further develop its position as a hub for innovation and creativity. He expressed his happiness at the progress of development in the country. He also expressed his confidence in the capabilities of Emiratis and their ability to lead the nation's development.

His Highness said: "Every achievement and success that we celebrate motivates us to move ahead with confidence, determination and optimism. We are challenging ourselves to generate the best ideas and

initiatives. Our progressive way of thinking, ambition and positive energy will bring happiness to the people and prosperity to the nation.

Sheikh Mohammed praised the professionalism demonstrated in the implementation of the project. He said that the Dubai Water Canal is a new landmark in modern Dubai.

Dubai Holding implemented the first phase of the Water Canal, which cost AED1bn and extends 9 km from the Ras Al Khor area all the way through Business Bay to Sheikh Zayed Road. The project is

set to have a positive impact on tourism in Dubai as it will feature a number of tourism attractions that will also be developed by Dubai Holding.

Dubai Holding, through its real estate arm Dubai Properties Group, will also implement 'Marasi Business Bay'. The development embraces the longest promenade in the UAE, spanning 12 km, featuring water homes, floating restaurants, retail outlets and five palm tree-lined marinas. The project also features the region's first purpose-built yachting destination with



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Creating green community

floating restaurants and cafes, alongside onshore boutique shopping and a range of leisure and entertainment facilities. The development's residential units, which will be built on water with boat access, provide unparalleled direct canal views and create a unique new lifestyle proposition.

The second phase costing AED 2.7 billion extends 3.2 km and features 6.4 km of waterfront. The Canal, which ranges from 80 m to 120 m in width, stretches from the Business Bay, crosses the Sheikh Zayed Road, passes Safa Park, Al Wasl Road and Jumeirah 2 and terminates at the Arabian Gulf.

The inauguration event was also attended by Chairman of

Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Chairman of Emirates Group H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum; Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; Chairman of Dubai Holding Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi; Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) Mattar Al Tayer; Chairman and CEO of Meydan Saeed bin Humaid Al Tayer; Group Chairman of Meraas Holding Abdulla Ahmed Al Habbai and a number of dignitaries.

The celebrations started with

the national anthem, and later featured an aerial show inspired by the UAE's heritage against the backdrop of a water fountain themed: A Million Drops Make the Oceans.

This was followed by the screening of a movie titled 'Dubai Water Canal, the New Face of Dubai'. The film spotlighted the Canal project, which is a culmination of the dream of the father of modern Dubai the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum to deepen the Dubai Creek in 1959 to ease marine navigation, besides constructing Al Maktoum and Al Garhoud Bridges, and Al Shindagha Tunnel. Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai HH Sheikh Mohammed

The Dubai Water Canal project has been built at a cost of AED 3.7 billion.



bin Rashid Al Maktoum took this initiative forward with projects that made Dubai a global economic hub. His Highness also launched the project to link the Dubai Creek with the Arabian Gulf through the Business Bay and Dubai Canals, which stretch a combined distance of 12 km.

The film showed various stages of project works, which include the construction of three motor bridges linking the two shores of the Canal crossing over Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Wasl Road and Jumeirah Road. Comprising eight lanes in each direction, the bridge on Sheikh Zayed Road was opened on 9 January 2016; Al Wasl Bridge, consisting of three lanes in each direction, was opened on 1 June 2016; and the

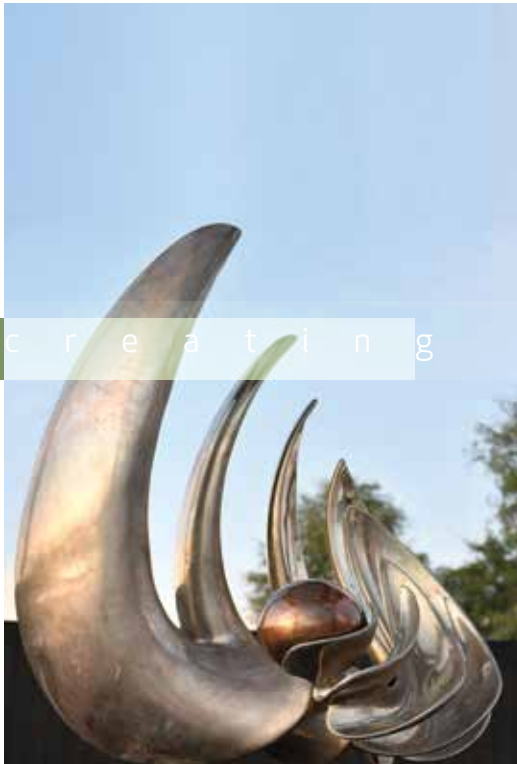
Jumeirah Bridge, also featuring three lanes in each direction, was opened on 9 July this year.

The project also included the construction of five footbridges, three of which feature iconic designs. Construction works on the Canal project were completed on 27 October 2016, following which water flowed through the Canal, effectively linking the Business Bay with the Arabian Gulf.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum then placed his finger on an electronic panel signalling the opening of the Dubai Water Canal, and the launch of the maiden water trip. A massive model of Burj Khalifa burst into the scene and fabulous

laser lights sent beams along the Dubai Canal from Sheikh Zayed Road to the Jumeirah Beach. His Highness and his entourage then boarded Dubai Water Canal Yacht 1 to cruise the Canal escorted by different modes of marine transport.

The Canal was transformed into an Outdoor Theatre with four giant screens installed on the side of the Canal. The first scene gave a glimpse of Dubai's maritime heritage and diving trips showcasing Fath and Zabeel boats, which were used by the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum when visiting the Dubai Oil well and during diving trips. The second scene highlighted the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in



The Dubai Water Canal Project is an extension of Deira Creek, linking Business Bay to the Arabian Gulf. This environmentally friendly lifestyle development is comprised of three distinct zones: The Water Network, The Green Network and The Public Realm.





completing the linking of the Dubai Creek with the Arabian Gulf through the Business Bay and Dubai Canals extending 12 km.

The third scene reviewed the spectacular urban structures on both sides of the Dubai Water Canal. The fourth one was entitled: The Dubai Water Canal in Figures.

The tour passed underneath the Water Fountain on the Sheikh Zayed Road Bridge and headed back to Al Safa Park Marine Station. His Highness then alighted the boat and crossed the first footbridge where he met a group of children who thanked him for this huge achievement that had turned the area into a world-class showpiece.

His Highness then made an inspection tour of the Walk leading up to the launch site of the Canal Memorial where he received a pearl from Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA HE Mattar Al Tayer.

When His Highness put the pearl on the launch pad, a massive cylindrical model appeared through which heavy water flew in a shape replicating the Dubai maritime environment. Fireworks then lit the sky over the Bridge crossing the Canal at the Sheikh Zayed Road and Safa Park. Burj Khalifa was bathed in lights that announced the opening of the Dubai Water Canal.

His Highness then posed for

photos with teams from the RTA, Dubai Holding, Meydan and Meraas Holding, as well as contractors and consultants of companies that worked on the construction of the Canal.



COVER STORY

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

Third Cycle of Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment launched



Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Climate Change & Environment, the Zayed Foundation launches the Third Cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment.

In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, launched the 3rd cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment on 12th December, 2016.

This announcement was made at a press conference held at the Dubai Police Academy by Brigadier Ahmed Mohammed Rafiea, Deputy Chairman of the Zayed Foundation who extended

his gratitude and appreciation to the Ruler of Dubai who is also the Patron of Prize, for his constant efforts to raising the environmental profile of the nation and his support to the Foundation in this regard.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed Foundation and other members including Col. Dr. Ghaith Ghanim Al Suwaidi, Ali Ahmed Al Najjar, Dr. Khalid Ahmed Omer, Secretary General Dr. Meshgan Mohamed Al Awar, Mrs. Maryam Saeed Hareb, Alia Abdel Rahim Al Harmoudi,

Aseela Abdullah Al-Mualla and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed Foundation attended the event.

The press conference was also attended by representatives of industrial, educational, media institutions, in addition to a number of local government department representatives.

In his opening address, Brig. Rafiea noted that the UAE has excelled and proven its leadership in the field of Green Economy and sustainable development. "To keep up with the pioneering



The prestigious Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment is now open for the 3rd cycle applications and nominations until the 31st of August 2017.

achievements, the UAE needs a united vision and collaboration of all sectors of society to lead the world.

“The Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment is meant to attract and encourage all government, private and civil society entities to get involved in promoting sustainable development and sustainable life styles,” he said.

He also extended his thanks to the UAE Minister of Climate Change & Environment, H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, and to the

Higher Committee members for their collaboration and continuous support.

The Secretary General of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment, Engineer Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, elaborated that the Award, which is worth one million dirhams in prize money, has been established to stimulate environmentally conscious initiatives among the larger UAE community including individuals, corporate, government institutions and civil society. “It has been designed to promote the values of sustainable

development and innovation among the local community, and the Prize recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of environment and energy conservation across all sectors of society,” he said.

“It supports and encourages individual and collective national environmental initiatives that will contribute to Green Economy and sustainable development. The Emirates Appreciation Award will also highlight the initiatives and achievements of industrial and service enterprises which are committed to environmental



standards and contribute toward the promotion of a culture of environmental awareness and sustainable life styles among members of society.”

He also pointed out that the Prize is awarded in 5 categories and 8 subcategories and each winner will receive a Medal and an Appreciation Certificate, in addition to the prize money.

He also said that with the announcement of this launch, the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment would like to invite nominations for the third cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment across the emirates. Nominations will be accepted until the 31st of

August 2017.

The objectives of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment are:

- To recognize and promote pioneering contributions in the field of the environment and sustainable development at the national level
- To recognize outstanding achievements in the field of environment and energy conservation across all sectors of United Arab Emirates society
- To support and encourage individual and collective national environmental initiatives that will contribute to the sustainability of development activities, research and innovation

- To highlight the initiatives and achievements of industrial and service enterprises which are committed to environmental standards and contribute to the promotion of a culture of environmental awareness among members of society

- To raise environmental awareness across all sectors of United Arab Emirates



The Award supports and encourages individual and collective national environmental initiatives that will contribute to the implementation of the “UAE Green Development Strategy”.



Categories of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

	Category	AED
I	Environmental Personality	200,000
II	Industrial Enterprise	
	Large Industries	100,000
	Small and Medium Industries	100,000
III	Educational Institution	
	Universities and Higher Institutes	100,000
	Schools	100,000
IV	Innovation, Invention and Environmental Research	
	Innovation/ Invention	100,000
	Research which has been applied	100,000
V	Media and Environmental Awareness	
	In Mass Media	100,000
	In Organizations/ Foundations/ Agencies	100,000

Winners of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Category	First Cycle	Second Cycle
Environmental Personality Award	H.E. Lt.Gen. Dhahi Khalfan Tamim	H.E. Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi
Industrial Enterprise Award (Large Industries)	Abu Dhabi Marine Operations Company (ADMA OPCO)	Emirates Global Aluminum - Jebel Ali (DUBAL)
Small & Medium Size Industries Award		Emirates Float Glass LLC Berger Paints Emirates Ltd
Educational Institution Award (Schools)	Sustainable Schools Program	Athen Primary School for Girls Ras Al Khaima
Educational Institution Award (Universities & Higher Institutes)	Abu Dhabi Education Council	British University in Dubai
Invention / Innovation Award	Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA)	UAE National Center of Meteorology & Seismology (NCMS) Cloud Seeding Program
Media and Environmental Awareness Award in Mass Media	Sharjah Environment & Protected Areas Authority	Sharjah Media Corporation
Media and Environmental Awareness Award for Individuals and Organizations	Ms. Azza Yousef Al Awadi Ras Al Khaima Education Zone	Mr. Ahmed Musabbah Al Nuaimi Al Tafawuq School - Al Ain

Green Economy

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UAE becomes first country to join World Green Economy Organisation



[The UAE's first World Green Economy Organisation \(WGEO\) was launched to bolster a culture of green economy in the country, the region and around the world.](#)

The UAE's first World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) was launched to bolster a culture of green economy in the country, the region and around the world.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, has announced that the UAE is now the first member of the World Green Economy Organisation, WGEO.

Al Zeyoudi said, "The Green Economy for Sustainable Development initiative launched

in 2012, and the Green Agenda 2015-2030, set the course for our economic growth ambitions, social development priorities and environmental sustainability goals. The advancement of the UAE's green economy efforts couldn't have been made without the strong support from the UN and relevant international organisations. Most notably, the Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, GGKP, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, PAGE, the United Nations

Development Programme, UNDP, and the International Renewable Energy Agency, IRENA.

"I am confident that through WGEO, we will have significant impact on knowledge and experience sharing which would help to overcome common challenges and to ensure successful achievement of our common green economy goals," he added.

Dr. Zeyoudi made these remarks during the announcement of the global launch of WGEO at the 22nd session of the Conference of



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THE WORLD Green Economy Organisation will provide consultations and technical, financial and moral support in the field of green economy.

the Parties, COP 22, in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors, World Green Economy Organisation and Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, said that the WGEO, which was launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, at the 3rd World Green Economy Summit in Dubai, will support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and increase global awareness on

climate change to enhance the shift towards a green economy.

The announcement was attended by Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Advisor to the UAE President, Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy, Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, Suhail Mattar Al Ketbi, the UAE Ambassador to Morocco, Mohammed Abunayyan, Chairman of ACWA Power, and representatives of the UN agencies, the public and private sectors, financial institutions,

non-profit-organisations, and civil society organisations.

“This great initiative came under the wise vision of President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, during the third World Green Economy Summit in Dubai on 5th October 2016, and is supported by the UAE and the United Nations Development Programme. I would like to thank the United Nations for its pioneering role in raising global awareness about climate change,” said Al Tayer.



“Launching WGEO at this time reflects the relentless efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WGEO will also play an instrumental role in mitigating climate change, as it serves as a mechanism for generating new solutions for sustainable energy, water and other environmental challenges, thereby lowering the risk of green economy investments, and supporting international cooperation in innovation, technology and finance. As Dubai is emerging as a global hub for green economy, we are celebrating today the announcement of the global launch of the WGEO and I would like to take this opportunity

to give you a glimpse into the efforts of the UAE to become a green economy,” he added.

“To meet the environmental challenges facing most countries in the world and to spread a culture of sustainability, we must have a global movement towards a green economy. These principles are firmly embedded within the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 for clean energy to provide 7% of Dubai’s total power output by 2020, rising to 25% by 2030, and 75% by 2050. The strategy consists of five main pillars: infrastructure, legislation, funding, building capacities and skills, and an environmentally-friendly energy mix. The strategy is underpinned by an expected investment of

US\$13 billion in the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which is the largest single-site solar park in the world, with a planned capacity of 5,000 megawatts by 2030,” he added.

“These efforts culminate today in this announcement pertaining to the World Green Economy Organisation, which will be permanently based in Dubai, to pioneer a new approach to promoting green economy by bringing together governments, the private sector, foundations, United Nations agencies, banking systems and society, to unite to achieve green economic goals and serve as a catalyst for generating new integrated solutions to climate change, sustainable energy, water and

“The establishment of a green economy is a critical element to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and the Paris Climate Agreement.”

- Dr. Thani Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment



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

other environmental challenges around the world.

“In line with its global mandate, WGEO will significantly contribute to the implementation of the Paris climate agreement, COP 21, to shift to a green economy, a low-carbon economy that is climate-resilient, resource-efficient, and socially-inclusive. WGEO will bridge the gaps between countries in innovation, technology and finance. It will provide technical assistance to countries who can benefit from Dubai’s green economy model, as well as models from other countries whose economies demand the development of strong, robust and diverse green strategies for the future,” he added.

“WGEO will also benefit from technical support from the UNDP office in the UAE, as well as advisory support services from UNDP’s Arab States Regional Centre. In addition, WGEO will serve as a global platform to accelerate the shift towards a green economy. The WGEO’s mandate blends with the UAE’s green and sustainable development strategy, exemplified by the ‘Green Economy for Sustainable Development’ initiative launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for the UAE to be among the world’s leading countries and a global hub for the export and re-export of green products and technologies. We welcome the collaboration with the United Nations Development

Program to strengthen the WGEO’s position as a reference point for a green economy, to support productive dialogue between countries on best practices for a green economy, provide technical support, and help the green economy to create jobs,” he added.

He continued, “We remain committed to our continued development of innovative business models for energy and transport, such as power-purchase agreements for solar energy, which have already resulted in lowering the price of solar power per kilowatt hour.

“We are proud to say that WGEO will join the global efforts to combat climate change at



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COP 22. The UAE's efforts to support the transition to a green economy are underlined by its contribution and commitment to reduce carbon emissions, which formed the basis of the historic Paris Agreement, signed at the Paris Climate Conference and committing to cap the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2 Degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and limit the increase to 1.5 Degrees Celsius. It is pertinent that the launch of WGEO is aligned to the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to 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. It also supports the launch of the 27 billion US Dollar Green Energy Fund, which reflects Dubai's efforts to support local, national and international projects to achieve a green economy. I would like to extend my good wishes for the success of COP 22, and I hope to meet you in Dubai during the World Green Economy Summit 2017," concluded Al Tayer.

Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, said, "Once operational, the World Green Economy Organisation can serve as a new platform for green, low-carbon, climate resilient solutions in developing countries, building on UAE's role as a new

global partner for climate action."

WGEO will strengthen cooperation among world countries in green economy. When he launched WGEO at World Green Economy Summit 2016, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum emphasised that the organisation will fulfil its mission to promote green economy regionally and globally, support dialogue among countries, while providing them with consultation and financial, moral, and technical support. The Summit concluded by announcing the 3rd Dubai Declaration, which emphasised Dubai's ongoing efforts to be a smarter, greener, and happier city, and to claim its position as a global hub for green economy.



HH Sheikh Mohammed launches UAE University Science and Innovation Park

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai launched the UAE University (UAEU) Science and Innovation Park at the university campus in Al Ain on 22nd November, 2016.

He unveiled the plaque of the UAEU Science and Innovation Park, a first-of-its-kind research hub and student innovation incubator in the region and also worldwide.

Following the launch, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid inspected the projects of students from the UAE University, Khalifa University and Abu Dhabi Police, which were on display during the UAE Innovation Week.

Dubai Crown Prince H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and The Future; Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education; Dr. Ali Rashid Al Noaimi, UAEU Chancellor; Dr. Mohamed Albaili, UAEU Vice Chancellor; Khalifa Saeed Suleiman, Dubai Director of Protocol and Hospitality, and senior education officials attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Mohammed stressed the importance of co-ordination and interaction between the public and private sectors to pursue development and attract the largest number of creative energies and minds who have innovative ideas in different scientific

streams and specialisations like environment, health, education, space and engineering.

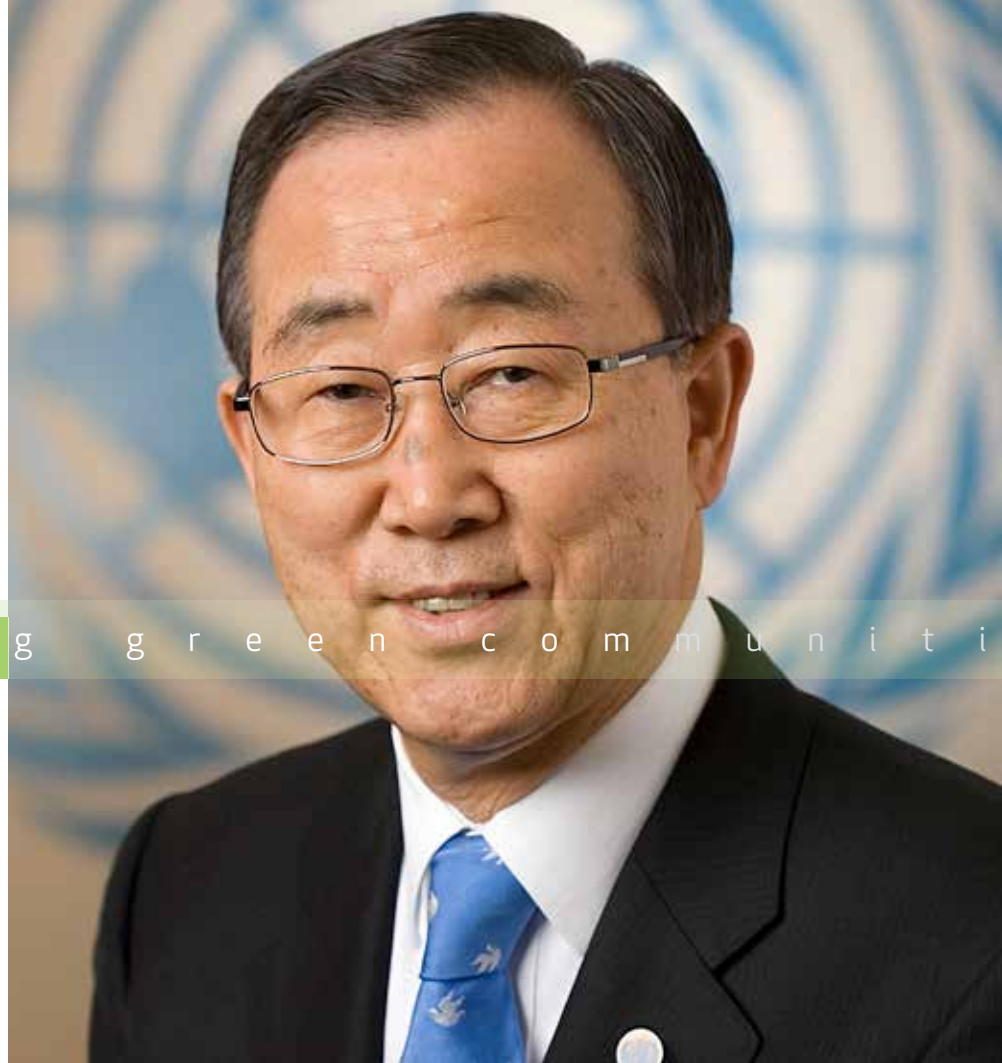
“Such inventions will have positive impact on the development of our state and enable it to compete globally in fields of research, invention, education and knowledge, he said.

“As leaders, we believe in the ability and enthusiasm of our young generation for advancing the UAE’s place internationally. We promise them that they will be at the centre of our attention, and have unflinching support to catapult them into a bright future,” he added, emphasising that patience, determination and persistence are the most effective instruments of geniuses in innovation and invention.

Green Economy

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

UN Secretary
General commends
UAE for launching
World Green
Economy
Organisation



Ban Ki-moon also commends HH Sheikh Mohammed's insightful vision for sustainable development during his recent visit to the UAE.

Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, commended the insightful vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for supporting sustainability and global green economy and launching the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) with its permanent headquarters in Dubai. He also praised the UAE for joining WGEO as its first member.

In a meeting with Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman

of World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO), HE Ban Ki-Moon, was briefed on the key achievements and joint cooperation development between the United Nations and WGEO.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer stated that WGEO which was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at the 3rd World Green Economy Summit 2016 in Dubai will support the UAE Vision 2021 to be among the best countries in the world by 2021. The UAE Green Economy Strategy was also launched by H.H. under the theme 'A Green Economy

for Sustainable Development' to enhance Dubai's position as a global capital for green economy as well as to achieve the objectives of Dubai Plan 2021 to achieve further happiness in the society, he added.

"Joined by the UAE as its first member country, WGEO will support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate, and increase global awareness on climate change to enhance the shift towards a green economy.

"WGEO will also have a leading and new role to promote the levels of



WORLD GREEN Economy Organisation (WGEO) has its permanent headquarters in Dubai and UAE is its first member.

green economy through dialogue, partnership and exchange of expertise among countries, public and private sectors, corporates, UN organisations, banking institutions and civil society institutions to achieve the objectives of green economy and act as a mechanism to introduce new solutions for climate change, sustainable energy and other challenges facing water and environment worldwide,” he added.

“Launching WGEO at this time reflects the relentless efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the

United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WGEO will also play an instrumental role in mitigating climate change, as it serves as a mechanism for generating new solutions for sustainable energy, water and other environmental challenges, thereby lowering the risk of green economy investments, and supporting international cooperation in innovation, technology and finance. It will provide technical assistance to countries which can benefit from the UAE’s and the other countries green economy model, as well as cooperating with other

countries whose economies require development and diverse green strategies for the future,” he explained.

“The fruitful collaboration with the United Nations is one of the key steps in our pursue to strengthen our march for sustainable development and exchange of expertise and experience with other countries to achieve our aspirations for a better future as our leadership has a wise vision to foresee the future through ambitious infrastructure projects in clean energy that is important in achieving balance between



development and environment to ensure the generations to come a clean, healthy and safe environment. Energy is one of the key elements for sustainable development and the base for positive environment that encourages and enhances cooperation, engagement, innovation and creativity," he added.

Al Tayer highlighted the key achievements, initiatives and projects of Dubai. He added that Dubai has launched Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to provide 7% of Dubai's energy by 2020, 25% by 2030, and 75% by 2050.

The strategy consists of many initiatives including Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar

Park which is the largest single-site solar park in the world, with a planned capacity of 5,000 megawatts by 2030 and an expected investment of USD13 billion.

Dubai is working on the reduction of carbon emissions in line with Dubai Carbon Abatement Strategy to reduce carbon emissions by 16% by 2021 and the implementation of the energy and water demand side management strategy to enhance Dubai's position as the city with the lowest carbon footprint worldwide and to reduce demand to 30% by 2030. Furthermore, Etihad Energy Services (Etihad Esco) was established to optimise the use of energy and to develop a market for energy efficiency and

to reinstate more than 30,000 existing buildings in Dubai.

He also emphasised on projects for increasing efficiency and reliability in generating energy and desalinating water such as increasing productivity techniques without using additional fuel, increasing the efficiency of central cooling systems, energy conservation programmes, and water desalination using solar energy. Other smart initiatives include 'Shams Dubai' to encourage houses' and buildings' owners to install photovoltaic panels to generate power, consumption saving, the Green Charger to establish the infrastructure and build 100 electric vehicle charging stations all over Dubai.

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



UAE launches research programme for climate initiative

As a participant at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakech, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched a research programme to reduce the impact of climate change on 17th November 2016.

Marrakech hosted this year's conference which began on 7th November and concluded on 18th November. During the UNFCCC's 22nd 'Conference of the Parties' (COP 22), countries set a road map to implement last year's Paris Agreement. COP 22 follows last year's landmark COP 21 agreement in Paris in December, during which 196 parties signed to pledge progressive policy actions to tackle climate change.

The 'Research for Climate' initiative is a joint partnership between the UAE and the University of Maryland.

"The initiative provides a fitting opportunity to create an ambitious international network for research on mitigation of climate change," said Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

The aim of the initiative, he stated, is to team up with the academia and research centres to advance government efforts aimed at reducing consequences of the climate change by finding better solutions to this challenge.

"At the COP 22, where countries started to fulfil their pledges

under the Paris Agreement, we need to chart a course of action that enables us to reach creative solutions to prevent climate change and allow companies, civil society organisations and universities and research centres engage in this effort," he added.

"In May 2016, we formed the Emirates Committee for Sustainable Environment Research, which comprised representatives from a range of different organisations, entities and universities across the public and private sectors to oversee the development of a research strategy and integrated work streams on environmental sustainability and climate change; key national priorities of the UAE Government," he added.

Award

26 creating green communities

UAE established innovation as a culture: HH Sheikh Mohammed



[HH Sheikh Mohammed was speaking at the Government Innovations Ceremony held by the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation as part of UAE Innovation Week.](#)

The UAE has succeeded in establishing innovation, a key value and a distinctive characteristic of future societies, as a culture serving and developing all strategic sectors, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said during an award ceremony on 24th November, 2016.

“The UAE, led by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has changed the traditional idea about government work and employed

innovation as an approach and a culture while establishing a competitive knowledge-based economy and enhancing services to achieve prosperity and happiness for society,” he said at the Government Innovations Ceremony held by the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation as part of UAE Innovation Week, that was held from 20th-26th November.

Sheikh Mohammed honoured the three winners of the Afkari (My Ideas) competition, launched last year by the Centre, for coming up with innovative solutions to

enhance government work and serve society.

First place winner Shaikha Al Raihi, an employee at the Emirates Identity Authority, proposed a customer friendly service in an app called My Services.

Second place winner Sheikh Khalid Al Qasimi, from the Ministry of Interior, proposed using drones to detect explosives, while third place winner Dr. Huda Abdouli, from the Ministry of Health and Prevention, submitted a proposal for a ‘Diabetic Footcare Clinic’.



Sheikh Mohammed honoured three winners of the Afkari (My Ideas) competition, for coming up with innovative solutions to enhance government work and serve society.

“We want each and every government employee to be innovative. Do not hesitate to present your ideas, because any idea, however simple, could be transformed into a project that can contribute to the development of government work and ultimately achieve happiness for our society,” Sheikh Mohammed said.

“We want every government agency to become an incubator for innovation and to embrace its creative employees, support them, and turn their ideas into a reality that benefits society.”

Expressing hope in a future being built by the Emirati youth, he said the UAE has long recognised that moving into the future requires the building of innovation and knowledge-based society.

Innovation, Sheikh Mohammed added, is no longer a philosophy or theories. “It is a vital need for societies preparing to move into the future.”

Addressing the winners of the competition and the audience, he said, “This is an encouraging beginning. We want you to be the driving force in the entities you

work for to serve your society and state. We will support you to turn your ideas and innovations into a reality.”

Those who attended the ceremony included His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, along with ministers, senior officials and representatives of the private sector.

Launch

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

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid launches Government Accelerators



The world's first government accelerators, an ambitious programme that spells out tangible objectives for five key areas, was launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the world's first government accelerators on 24th November, 2016.

The first group of government accelerators will focus on five ministries: the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, and Ministry of Education. He directed officials to intensify efforts to

achieve a 100 percent completion rate for the National Agenda goals.

"The successful nations are not gauged by their size, but in the speed they accomplish achievements and bring forward innovative solutions to challenges in transitioning to the future, as well as active participation in making a difference in the lives of people," Sheikh Mohammed said.

He added, "This move ushers in a new stage that will further strengthen the government agencies' efforts to work under

one umbrella in one location to exchange views and to take direct decisions to overcome challenges and find appropriate and quick solutions to achieve the ambitions of people and aspirations of future generations."

"The accelerators have multiple tasks and responsibilities to boost the pace for achieving the goals of the National Agenda and projects. Directives have been issued for all government bodies under the umbrella of the accelerators programme to develop initiatives, laws, policies and services that



THE UAE accelerators is an adaption of a popular programme widely used globally to provide guidance and support to startups and entities.

support national indexes and programmes. The government bodies will also be tasked with implementing joint projects in record time in order to shift government services into advanced standards by 2021," Sheikh Mohammed said.

He noted that every effort exerted by the government aims to raise standards of living in Emirati society. "The accelerators were launched to achieve this goal using effective methods that rely on creativity in the ideal utilisation of resources," Sheikh Mohammed said,

adding that he would personally follow up on the implementation of the plans and desired objectives.

Sheikh Mohammed inspected the Government Accelerators headquarters at Emirates Towers. He also heard presentations by government accelerator work teams that gave him a detailed explanation regarding the project's phases and objectives. Sheikh Mohammed was then briefed by the officials of the programme on work plans and challenges that they will focus on, as they seek solutions to challenges.

He was accompanied by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince; Lt. General H.H. Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; and Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future.



Inauguration

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

Hamdan bin Rashid inaugurates Innovation Lab



The Innovation Lab aims to create an environment that motivates and inspires staff to develop ideas and projects to improve the government's financial system and support in achieving the Ministry of Finance's strategic goals.

In line with his commitment to innovation as a key pillar of future government work, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and the Minister of Finance of the UAE, inaugurated the Innovation Lab at the Ministry of Finance (MoF) Headquarters in Dubai on 23rd November, 2016.

He attended the first brainstorming session of the Innovation Lab, as part of UAE's innovation week.

Sheikh Hamdan toured various sections and facilities of the Innovation Lab. He was briefed

on the Lab's most prominent technologies adopted to promote and instill a culture of innovation.

The Innovation Lab aims to create an environment that motivates and inspires staff to develop ideas and projects to improve the government's financial system and support in achieving the Ministry's strategic goals.

Sheikh Hamdan participated in the Innovation Lab's first brainstorming session, which was organised by the Government Innovation team, entitled: "Sustainable financial management for the youth of the

future." The session discussed frameworks of sustainable financial management, and how to introduce them to the youth to apply these frameworks in their fields within the Ministry.

He praised the Innovation Lab and its role in promoting a culture of innovation and providing an effective and interactive platform for the Ministry's staff to engage in dialogue and explore solutions to perform tasks in an innovative manner. "Successful countries are the ones capable to stimulate the minds of the youth towards creativity and innovation, and



Sheikh Hamdan participated in the Innovation Lab's first brainstorming session, entitled: "Sustainable financial management for the youth of the future."

provide them with an environment with the latest tools to become active and successful leaders who are able to achieve excellence in their fields."

Sheikh Hamdan was accompanied by Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Younis Haji Al Khouri, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, as well as leaders in the Ministry and the Government Innovation team.

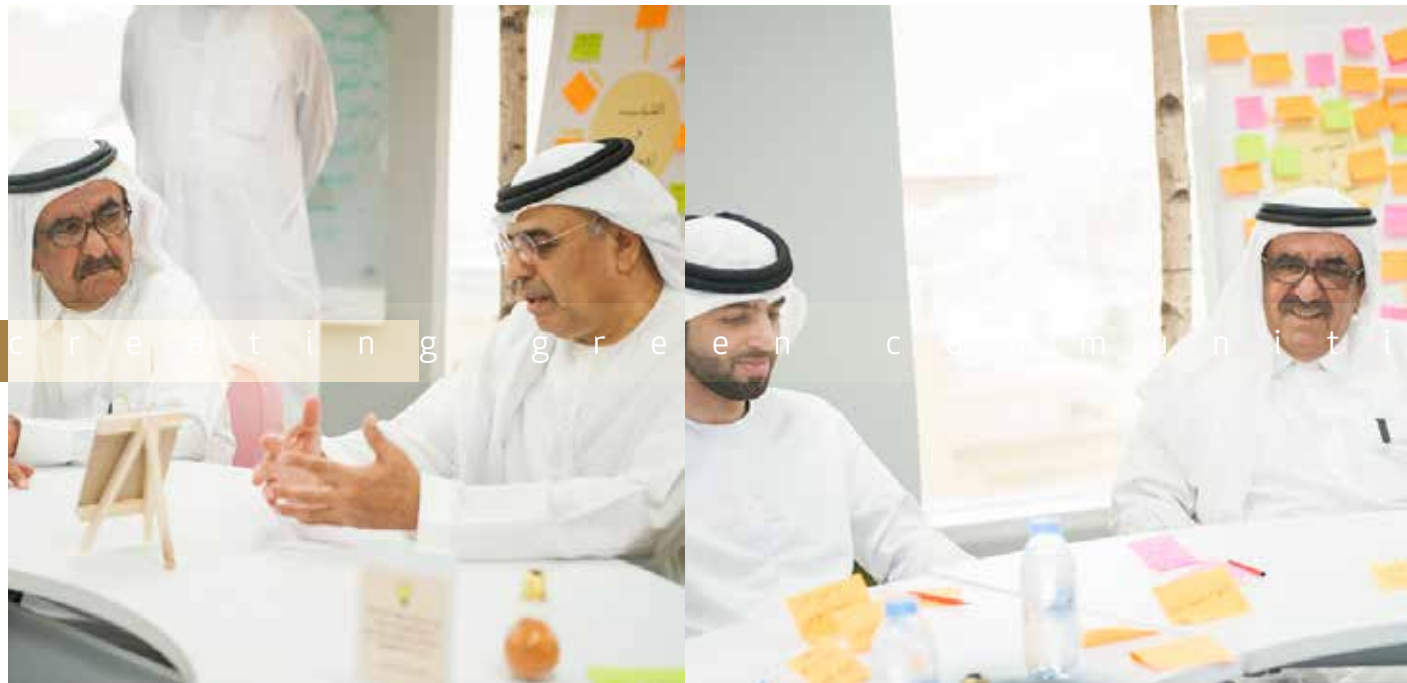
Al Tayer said, "The UAE has achieved important milestones in global innovation indicators,

in which the country ranked first regionally and 41st worldwide. Due to its important role in building the future and achieving sustainable economic and social development, the UAE has worked towards instilling a culture of innovation in the work environment and within daily tasks. Our aim during this festival was to focus on societal innovation and encourage the community to participate in launching innovative ideas and initiatives."

On the second and last day of the Innovation Festival, MoF organised a panel discussion entitled

"Cities of Knowledge: Policies for Diversification and Innovation", which saw a debate between Dr. Bruno Lanvin, Executive Director of the Global Indicators at INSEAD, and Fuad Hasanov, a Senior Economist from the IMF on cities of knowledge. In addition, John Straw, author of the book "iDisrupted" presented a keynote on the "3 dimensional disruption" and the impact of technology in supporting innovation.

During the final day of the Innovation Festival, MoF hosted an event titled 'Innovation Connect', which provided startups



in Cybersecurity and FinTech, the opportunity to present their projects to a group of investors for future cooperation and business development. MOF received 66 participations requests from 24 countries, from which 12 companies qualified to attend and participate in this event.

The Innovation Festival concluded with the Ministry honouring the winners of various activities, and offering them cash prizes in the form of e-dirhams, as well as from the “Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Fund to Finance Innovation”. The three winners of the x-Innovation Challenge in the Health, Education and Environment categories received a cash prize of AED 10,000 each. The top three finalists of the

Hackathon received cash prizes worth AED 35,000, AED 25,000, and AED 20,000 respectively. The Ministry also rewarded the winners of Innovation Connect in the Investor Favorite, Corporate Favorite, and Audience Favorite categories, on topics of Cybersecurity and FinTech and Internet of Things (IoT).

The Ministry of Finance also

launched the e-platform of ‘Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Fund to Finance Innovation’, which provides funding solutions and the appropriate environment to support entrepreneurs and innovators to assist them in transforming their ideas and innovations into projects that support the National Innovation Strategy and achieve the UAE Vision 2021.





Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Masdar sign agreement for second phase of air quality monitoring project

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCA, has signed an agreement with Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, for the second Phase of the air quality monitoring project in the UAE. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment and Dr. Behjat Al Yousuf, Interim Provost, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, witnessed the signing at the Sharjah Centre for Astronomy and Space Sciences.

The second phase follows the success of phase one of the project that involved the Masdar Institute establishing the air quality monitoring system in the UAE.

Phase-2 of the air quality monitoring by satellite project

involves the utilisation of ground-level and satellite data to measure particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) levels in the air and the use of the air quality network to calculate air quality index and facilitate air quality control programmes and initiatives.

It will also use satellite imagery, numerical models, and ground observations to understand the variability of air quality across the UAE and identify sources and nature of transboundary pollutants.

“Air quality is one of the priorities in the UAE because of its health, economic and environmental impacts, where the National Agenda aims at raising the rate of air quality in the country from around 70 percent at present to 90

percent by 2021. This joint venture to remotely monitor air quality via satellites, underlines our belief that state of the art technology and innovative practices and tools are an important and essential part of the spectrum of solutions,” said Dr. Al Zeyoudi.

“We are relying heavily on employing the latest available technologies and developing innovative solutions that contribute to strengthening our capabilities in this area,” he added.

“Through this agreement we are proud to collaborate with the ministry to developing a prompt and accurate method of monitoring air quality in the UAE, to recognise the environmental goals in the country’s 2021 vision,” said Dr. Al Yousuf.

UAE Climate Action Plan at forefront of global efforts to address climate change



[At the COP 22 conference, the UAE highlighted the country's global efforts to address climate change and promote responsible management of natural resources across vital sectors.](#)

“The Paris Agreement mandates the adoption of a flexible approach that allows all countries, especially those in the developing world, to take urgent action, in line with their national priorities and circumstances.”

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and Head of the official UAE delegation to the 22nd session of the Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), stressed the importance of supporting the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and translating its outcomes into successful actions that reduce the impact of global warming.

Sheikh Mansour's remarks

were part of the UAE's national statement at COP22, delivered on his behalf by Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

In his statement, Sheikh Mansour expressed gratitude and appreciation to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the COP22 Marrakesh climate conference.

He also applauded continued efforts of the UNFCCC Secretariat in achieving the aspirations of the world to ensure a sustainable future for



The UAE delegation to COP22 was the largest ever by the country to a UN climate conference.

generations to come. “Turning the Paris Climate Agreement into real initiatives on the ground requires enormous efforts and collaboration at the local, regional and international levels,” Sheikh Mansour said.

“The Paris Agreement mandates the adoption of a flexible approach that allows all countries, especially those in the developing world, to take urgent action, in line with their national priorities and circumstances.”

Sheikh Mansour called upon the developed world to honor its

commitments to extend financial support to developing countries, and help them in capacity building and climate change adaptation through technology transfer mechanisms.

He also expressed his confidence that the wide participation of countries, as well as non-state actors, at COP22 demonstrates the commitment and concerted efforts of the international community to minimise the impacts of climate change and enables the effective implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Sheikh Mansour highlighted the UAE’s pioneering efforts in addressing the climate change issues and noted that as a member state of the UNFCCC, and in line with its international commitments, the UAE ratified the Paris Climate Agreement and has hosted the World Green Economy Summit (WGES) for the past two years.

“The UAE is currently working on developing our National Climate Change plan that will serve as a framework for future initiatives and programmes to address climate issues,” Sheikh Mansour



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Creating a greener community

said. “We have also adopted strategies that focus on the transition of our country from a hydrocarbon-focussed economy to a more diversified and knowledge-based one.”

Providing an overview of the UAE’s green initiatives, Sheikh Mansour highlighted the launch of the Green Economy for Sustainable Development initiative as well as other key actions aimed at supporting research and development in the clean energy sector.

He noted that these initiatives promote rationalisation of water consumption, improve energy efficiency, support the transition to a low-carbon economy, boost innovation and

creativity and promote a culture of sustainability.

“The UAE is working hard to increase the share of clean energy to 27 per cent of its total energy mix by 2021,” Sheikh Mansour said. “Our nation also broke a world record for the second time this year when it received the lowest bidding price of US cents 2.42 per kilowatt-hour for a photovoltaic project.”

“In addition, the UAE successfully implemented the 100 MW Shams 1 concentrated solar power project and is developing the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Solar Park that leverages both photovoltaic and solar technologies that will generate 5,000 MW of electricity by 2030;”

Sheikh Mansour added. “Above all, the country believes in the significance of public-private partnership as one of the key drivers of green growth.”

Sheikh Mansour noted that the Paris Climate Agreement sends a clear message to the world, adding that governments have the responsibility to involve non-state actors and galvanise the efforts of all stakeholders towards achieving a common agenda.

“In the UAE, we are committed to working on initiatives that contribute to the mitigation of climate change through providing an effective platform that offers decision-makers, influencers and government and private sector

“The UAE is working hard to increase the share of clean energy to 27 per cent of its total energy mix by 2021.”



MARRAKECH COP22 | CMP12

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016

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leaders an opportunity to forge long-term partnerships.

“We are confident that such platforms will offer a strong impetus to global efforts to minimise the impacts of climate change,” he said.

“Given this priority, the UAE will host the second Abu Dhabi Climate Global Action Day in our capital city of Abu Dhabi during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in January 2017,” he added.

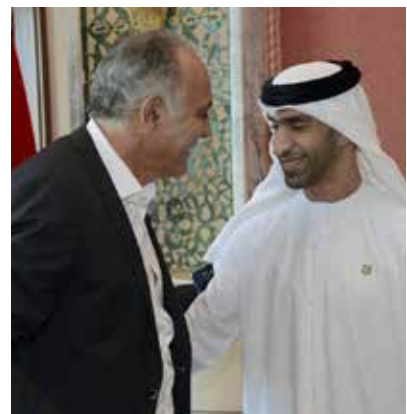
Sheikh Mansour also expressed his strong belief in building bridges of cooperation and engaging the international community to encourage continued dialogue on climate change issues.

Sheikh Mansour invited COP22 delegates to participate in the Abu Dhabi Climate Action Day and the World Government Summit that will be held in Dubai in February 2017.

The summit will include sessions focussed specifically on climate issues and promote joint initiatives and measures to address food security in the context of climate change. The event will also serve as an ideal opportunity to build partnerships and leverage capabilities to ensure a promising future for the coming generations.

The UAE’s participation in COP22 underscores its commitment to climate action and support of the Paris Agreement.

The UAE delegation to COP22 included Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Special Adviser to the UAE President, Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Mohammed bin Ahmad Al Bowardi, Minister of State for Defence Affairs.



Conference

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

Experts call for innovative realistic approach for sustainable development of coastal areas



[The 3rd Arabian Coast Conference was held in Dubai under the theme “Sustainable coastal development: best practices, innovations, challenges and opportunities.”](#)

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, participated in the 3rd International Conference on Coastal Engineering and Management in the Middle East (Arabian Coast 2016) organized by Dubai Municipality in collaboration with the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) under the theme “Sustainable coastal development: best practices, innovations, challenges and opportunities.”

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed Foundation, also attended the event held from November 21 to 23, 2016 that coincided with the Innovation Week launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

The event, also supported by the Ministry of Education, in coordination with local universities, sought to extend the bridges of communication between the government agencies overseeing the coastal projects

and academia on both applied and scientific points of view, as well as to attract the investment needed to implement coastal projects and to serve the orientations and objectives of the emirate towards sustainable development of coastal areas.

According to Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, “Arabian Coast 2016 was a great opportunity for experts in the field to exchange experiences and best practices between the various coastal towns in the areas of design and implementation of marine projects, and integrated management of the waterfronts.”



Arabian Coast 2016 was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance and Chairman of Dubai Municipality.

The conference, which was organized in Dubai for the 2nd time, is the largest gathering in the Middle East and North Africa for those interested in coastal zone engineering and management from developers, consultants and contractors as well as government agencies, universities and research centers.

More than 500 people attended the three-day event where 131 scientific papers from 35 countries were presented through 25 specialized scientific sessions. The event also saw the participation of a group of

keynote speakers that included 16 of the most prominent international experts and academics in coastal engineering, marine science and environment from Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Spain, India, Bahrain, UAE and Oman.

The keynote speakers covered topics such as coastal protection programmes, the risk of climate change on coastal areas and ways to adapt, design and management of water channels, modeling overlapping movement of the

waves with coastal installations, monitoring techniques of natural processes in the coastal areas, saline agriculture applications to protect the beaches and the quality of marine waters.

A specialized exhibition was also held which showcased the latest building materials and products used in coastal and marine projects. The booth of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment distributed books and monthly magazine free of charge, in addition to the interaction and exchange of information with the participants.

Sustainability

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

Dubai launches
UAE's first
sustainable
autonomous
house



The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) unveils new plans to its Sustainable Autonomous House developed for hot and humid climate.

Within the framework of the Sustainable Autonomous House project inaugurated recently by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) has unveiled the first of its kind sustainable autonomous house in the UAE, and has announced a series of plans to secure the technical requirements needed for building and developing these houses, with the aim of implementing the sustainable autonomous house model across the UAE.

MBRSC is planning to establish a laboratory specialized in conducting experiments and tests for sustainable autonomous houses to verify the efficiency of devices, systems and materials. A team of Emirati engineers at the Centre will be conducting complementary studies to optimize the condensed water in the cooling system, managing the humidity and high moisture processes in the atmosphere, in order to produce water for domestic use."

The Centre declared that it is preparing study and research plans to link the project with Dubai's

electricity grid, providing it with surplus energy storage so that the sustainable autonomous house will become small power plants producing electricity from a natural source - solar energy.

The Sustainable Autonomous House is the first model house developed to be self-sufficient and completely independent of the electricity grid. It produces autonomous energy from the Sun and depends on smart technical and engineering solutions, while it is able to adapt to the hot and humid climate challenges. Certified by the Passive House Institute in



SUSTAINABLE AUTONOMOUS House is certified by the Passive House Institute in Germany as the first of its kind Passive House for a hot and humid climate.

Germany, the model is the first of its kind Passive House for hot and humid climate. The house meets energy consumption and sustainability criteria, as it was designed and constructed in accordance with standards and regulations that guarantee the efficient use of energy, meeting all environmental and comfortable living requirements.

H.E. Yousuf Hamad Al Shaibani, Director General of MBRSC, said: "Since the establishment of MBRSC, we have been adopting the knowledge transfer strategy in order to develop new technology on

UAE soil. To fulfill that goal, we built a strategic partnership with one of the leading academic institutions specialised in developing research studies on efficient houses, such as the University of Bergamo and the Passive House Institute in Germany. This significant partnership aims to transfer knowledge of sustainable energy house building techniques. However, we have developed a new concept of this kind of smart home, to fit with the local environment in the UAE."

Al Shaibani confirmed that the Sustainable Autonomous House is one of MBRSC's initiatives

aimed at effectuating the use of the green and smart techniques to implement the UAE's strategy for green development and Dubai Clean Energy Strategy. It also aims to provide an applicable model for one of the main requirements of the Dubai Smart City initiative.

Al Shaibani said: "The Sustainable Autonomous House initiative is more than just specialized scientific technical research. MBRSC is looking forward to constructing an integrated model of an essential component in smart cities, and this is one of future accelerators. It's essential to create the culture



of effective and sufficient optimization of renewable energy sources in order to maintain a sustainable environment.

“The global economy tends to invest a great deal into renewable energy projects. This smart home transforms the housing sector from energy consumer to an energy source, thereby reducing the central power production load on the national economy,” he added.

Al Shaibani urged all governmental and private entities involved in the real estate sector to invest in this kind of smart building. He said: “It is essential to establish the technical infrastructure that is necessary for developers, including a scientific laboratory

specialised in conducting tests and experiments to verify the efficiency of devices, systems and materials used.

“We are planning to conduct studies to link the project with Dubai’s electricity grid, providing it with surplus energy storage, plus complementary studies to secure water sufficiency in these houses,” Al Shaibani concluded.

Dr. Ali Shaheen, Director of the Sustainable Energy Program at MBRSC, said: “The technology used currently in the Sustainable Autonomous House within the Centre depends on condensing the generated moisture in the smart cooling systems and moisture management processes to produce approximately 200

litres of water per day. This is a useful amount for domestic use. In the next phase, we will study how to transform high humidity to a water source cost effectively, by applying special techniques suitable for the nature of low energy consumption.

Shaheen confirmed that: “The Sustainable Autonomous House requires a very short period to be built. Building the house model at MBRSC took only 100 days, preceded by more than a year of study, comparison and application. During this phase, the Emirati engineers at the Centre, in cooperation with our strategic partners, were committed to examining the house systems, devices, insulation and house management items, while testing

“The Sustainable Autonomous House transforms the housing sector from energy consumer to energy source.”



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

their interaction to ensure efficient implementation and performance in the future.

“One of the requirements of the design stage is the orientation of the building which should fit with the sun path to ensure best performance. Also, the house have been designed and prepared to contain all the equipments and devices found in a traditional house. For example, the sustainable autonomous house at MBRSC is constructed to cover the planned future needs, and it is designed to accommodate over 30 people in a 6,000 sq ft area,” he added.

Shaheen highlighted the similarities and dissimilarities between traditional homes and the

sustainable autonomous house: “The sustainable energy house requires the same foundation of a traditional one, on top of starts the insulation process.”

He pointed out that sustainable autonomous house temperature ranges from between 22°C and 25°C in all seasons and times, therefore it does not require any traditional cooling device, thus reducing energy consumption by 75% as a result of the smart technical and engineering solutions applied.

The smart technical solutions include a cooling technology based on chilled water, as well as thermal and air insulation techniques in both directions, as the fresh air spreads out across the house

constantly via a mechanical ventilation system. Also, the house includes a smart management and control system which interacts with the changes of the external heat and humidity.

One innovative technical solution is the heat insulating walls, which are humidity and fire resistant, as they are composed of several layers of eco-friendly processed wood. The house also features insulating roofing and flooring that prevent heat absorption, avoiding the use of heat-conductive material in the windows, bridges and steel columns that absorb heat or leak energy. The window glass is composed of three layers (triple glazed), and contains krypton gas to enhance the effectiveness of the insulation.

COP 22

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

UAE to back UN initiatives to tackle climate change



The UAE joined more than 190 nations to discuss practical solutions to climate change issues and begin preparations to implement the Paris Agreement.

The UAE will support the United Nations' efforts to develop constructive partnerships in a bid to encourage green developments and build capacities in the promising sector that will help tackle climate change issues, said H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, during a meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, with the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour was in Morocco as head of the UAE delegation to the 22nd

Conference of the Parties, COP 22, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, and the Africa Action Summit in Marrakech.

At the meeting held on the sidelines of the event and also attended by Salaheddine Mezouar, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, and Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Sheikh Mansour and Ban Ki-moon discussed the role played by the Marrakech climate change conference in implementing the Paris Agreement on

climate change so as to deliver sustainable development goals and mitigate the impact of climate change to ensure a better future for generations to come.

The two sides also reviewed the conference agenda and issues of mutual concern. Ban Ki-moon also underlined the leading role of the UAE in supporting global efforts aimed at reducing the effects of climate change.

UN climate change meet

The UAE delegation headed by H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister



THE UAE is playing its part in tackling climate change, with effective policies and initiatives that aim to diversify the economy into new, knowledge-based industries.

and Minister of Presidential Affairs, attended the opening session of the Conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was held in the Moroccan city of Marrakech on 15th November, 2016.

The session was chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and was attended by a number of heads of states and governments and by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.

Sheikh Mansour thanked the government and people of the

Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this important event to tackle climate change issues and to put in place an effective mechanism for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The UAE's active presence in the conference reflected the leadership's willingness to build bridges of co-operation and constructive partnership with the international community, to address the challenges facing the world and to provide innovative solutions in all sectors related to climate change and environment protection, he said.

“As part of its vision for the post-oil phase, the UAE has embarked on a drive to build a diversified and sustainable economy,” Sheikh Mansour said. He underlined the efforts being made by the country to spread awareness among the youth and preparing them as future leaders of the development programmes that place priority in the environment.

The Marrakech conference provides a common platform for the countries of the world to discuss climate change and to step up global efforts to mitigate its impact, Sheikh Mansour noted.

Moroccan Minister visits UAE pavilion at Marrakech Climate Conference



[The UAE delegation to COP22 was the largest ever by the country to a UN climate conference.](#)

Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco and Chairman of Supervisory Committee of 22nd session of the Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), visited the UAE pavilion on the sidelines of the conference that was held in Marrakech, Morocco.

He was received by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment and a number of senior Emirati officials.

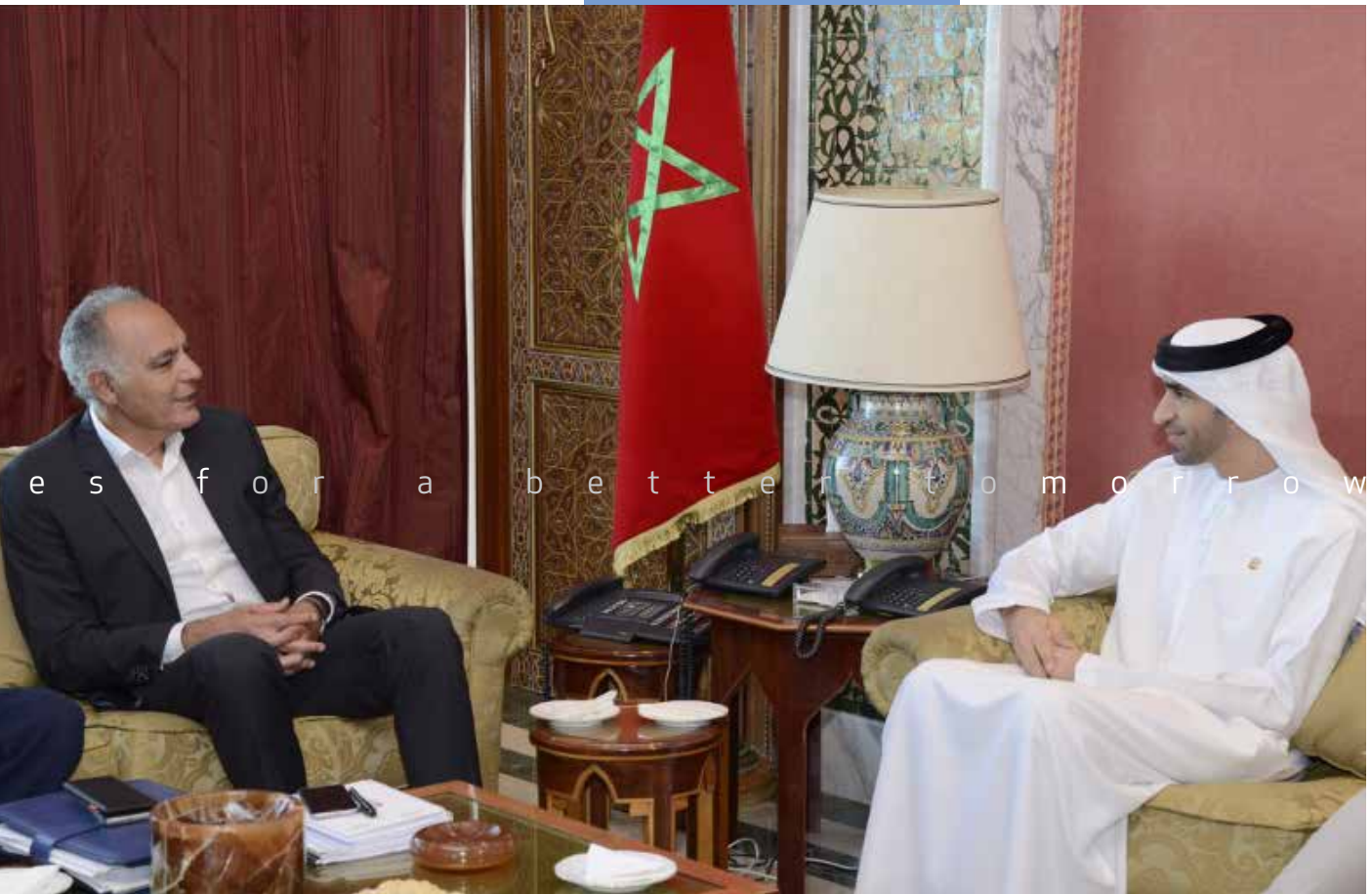
The Moroccan minister thanked the UAE government and people for their huge support to the conference to achieve its objectives.

While touring the pavilion, the Moroccan minister was briefed on the renewable energy projects being implemented by the UAE, notably the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which will become the world's largest solar energy project at one site.

When completed by 2030, the project will provide a production

capacity of 5,000 megawatts, enough to supply 800,000 homes with electricity.

The Moroccan minister, Salaheddine Mezouar, was also briefed on the projects carried out by Masdar in several countries around the world, where it provided to residents a reliable supply of clean and safe energy from sustainable sources, and helped to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels for power generation as well as lowered harmful carbon emissions and provided thousands of jobs for the people of these countries.



At COP22, the UAE showed its support for the international community's efforts to enhance sustainability and the green economy, while limiting the increasing effects of climate change.

He had a detailed explanation for the tireless efforts made by the UAE under the guidance of the leadership on the follow-up of the outputs and resolutions of the Paris Climate Conference in 2015 to translate them into programmes and projects.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister stressed the need for international solidarity to tackle the effects of climate change and put environmental issues at the top of economic development priorities. The two sides also discussed opportunities for the exchange of expertise in the

renewable energy sector. Both parties referred to the UAE economic development model that takes into account the environmental and economic aspects. This successful and viable model could be applicable in countries facing the negative impacts of the climate change.

At the conclusion of the visit, Dr. Al Zeyoudi thanked the Moroccan minister on his visit to the UAE's pavilion, expressing the readiness of the state to maintain contact and coordination with the Moroccan side at the highest levels.

The UAE delegation to COP22 included His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Special Adviser to the UAE President, Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy, Mohammed bin Ahmad Al Bowardi, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director-General of Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority.

Honor

48 creating green communities

Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital wins the World Responsible Tourism Award



The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital added this award to its winning streak for the fourth consecutive year of the “Middle East’s Responsible Awards”.

The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital (ADFH) has been awarded the coveted ‘World Responsible Tourism Award 2016’ for the first time at the annual World Travel Awards (WTA) Grand Final Gala Ceremony 2016.

The red-carpet event was held before an audience of leaders in the industry and international media at the Sun Siyam Iru Fushi Resort located in the Maldives on 2nd December, 2016.

The World Travel Awards, considered the Oscars of the global travel and tourism industry,

has recognised the commitment to excellence of the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital’s tourism programme.

The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital added this award to its winning streak for the fourth consecutive year the “Middle East’s Responsible Awards”.

Established by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) in 1999, the ADFH is internationally recognised for its commitment to the UAE’s culture and economy and for its contribution to the field of biodiversity conservation.

In addition to being the largest falcon hospital in the world with an ever-increasing influx of patients, ADFH has become a popular award-winning tourism destination. It is now considered one of the top three must-see tour attractions in Abu Dhabi and a recipient of TripAdvisor’s winner certificate.

H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, EAD’s Secretary General commented on the award: “We are immensely proud of the achievements of the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital, they are not only a world-leading clinical



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

In 2012, ADFH established an advanced online booking system for its tours through its website www.falcons-hospital.com.

veterinary hospital, but through their tours, a critical component in raising awareness of the threats falcons face and their importance in our cultural heritage. The hospital is also a pioneer in the understanding of falcon ecology and the rehabilitation of falcons into the wild through the Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme”.

Commenting on receiving the World Responsible Tourism Award for the first time, Dr. Margit Gabriele Muller, ADFH's Executive Director said: “This is a great honour and reward for the

monumental effort, hard work, consistent performance and commitment of my team in making the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital a global leader in responsible tourism.”

The tour offered by Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital provides an in-depth insight in the historical tradition of falconry in Abu Dhabi and its development in modern times. A glimpse behind the scenes of the world's largest falcon hospital and live interaction with falcons gives visitors the chance to get a better understanding of the Emirati's

culture, love and passion for nature and the UAE's national emblem, the majestic falcon.



Initiative

50 creating green community

Ministry of Climate Change launches 11 environmental initiatives



[The initiatives were launched to mark UAE's 2nd annual Innovation Week held from 20th and 26th November 2016.](#)

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, has launched 11 environmental initiatives between 20th and 26th November 2016 to mark the UAE's second annual Innovation Week, launched by Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The Ministry also held several contests for its employees and the public during this period.

The MOCCA has set up an 'Air Quality Innovation Platform', an innovation lab to engage

those working in this space, and discussion are being held on how to improve air quality. The second phase of study on air quality monitoring through satellites, in collaboration with the Masdar Institute, is also being launched with the innovation platform.

Among other projects, 'Our Happy Environment Encyclopaedia' initiative aims to use 5D technology innovatively to enable individuals to enhance green behaviours in areas such as water, energy, waste, air quality, climate change, sustainability and ecological

footprint. Another project called 'Innovative 3Rs station' is aimed at raising awareness and change the behaviour of individuals in the field of integrated waste management.

'Schools Hackathon' was also organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to recognise students who developed innovative projects to tackle environmental challenges.

The 'Environmental Innovation Marathon' is a contest for the sectors within the ministry to come up with an innovative



es for a better tomorrow

THE 'FALAK TAYEB' initiative honoured clients who came up with creative and innovative ideas for developing services and service channels in different areas.

solution for existing challenges by using innovation tools.

The 'Falak Tayeb' initiative honoured clients who came up with creative and innovative ideas for developing services and service channels in different areas. A visit was organised to the Integrated Seawater Energy and Agriculture System, ISEAS, a complete seawater agricultural system that will serve as a research and development facility for Masdar Institute of Science and Technology and the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium or SBRC, established

to advance sustainable business practices by developing technologies with the promise of producing a clean, alternative fuel supply.

'Eye on landfills' initiative monitors the treatment and rehabilitation of landfills with the help of drone camera.

For the 'Environmental Innovation Eye', participants can send in short video clips that show their innovative, eco-friendly practices that protects natural resources and conserves energy. Each video, with a hashtag, will have

to be shared via the Ministry's Instagram account.

'Innovators in Air Quality' is a contest to motivate university students to create areas of co-operation in innovation and teamwork to achieve the national agenda indicators to raise air quality index to 90 percent by 2021.

'Agricultural Innovative Armour' is a contest to promote agricultural innovation projects, using modern agricultural techniques, and effective and intelligent marketing methods.

Conference

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

7th Green Leadership Series highlights the role of public-private partnerships



[Hosted by Dubai Science Park and the Dubai Green Economy Partnership, the event saw over 120 industry leaders and delegates convene at the Address Hotel, Dubai Mall.](#)

Dubai Science Park, in collaboration with the Dubai Green Economy Partnership hosted the 7th Green Leadership Series as part of its commitment to playing a leading role in the clean energy revolution.

Fostering public-private partnerships to drive innovation and showcasing the country's green ambitions at the domestic level, the event followed closely after the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22), which saw strong participation from the UAE with its delegation comprising of over

100 representatives from the government, business, academia, and 30 students.

Speaking about the overarching role of the Green Leadership Series, H.E. Ahmad Buti Al Muhairbi, Dubai Green Economy Partnership Chairman and Secretary General of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy said: "Dubai's vision towards a diversified, knowledge-based economy is underpinned by a clear roadmap, as we embrace a brand new sustainability model that will help us promote the green economy far beyond the borders

of the emirate.

"Building on this momentum, the Green Leadership Series lives up to the spirit of creating capacity and knowledge across all industry verticals which, in turn, cements its position as a platform where best practices are shared and opportunities are created to ensure greater collaboration among the public and private sectors in the pursuit of sustainability."

The agenda of the 7th edition of the bi-annual Green Leadership Series, which attracted more



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In 2012, ADFH established an advanced online booking system for its tours through its website www.falconhospital.com.

than 120 delegates to two panel sessions, was driven by Dubai's green policies and highlighted progress made towards the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the city's development of a low-carbon economy.

In the spirit of UAE National Innovation Week, the two sessions at the 7th Green Leadership Series also analyzed various best practices that are already available to the industry, as well as the prospect of innovative and sustainable product launches in the UAE, and across the wider Arab region.

Marwan Abdulaziz Janahi, Executive Director of Dubai Science Park and member of the organising committee, said: "Energy has been a cornerstone of Dubai's rapid growth into a global economic centre, attracting talent from around the world. In creating a future powered by clean energy, the emirate will help define a new standard for progress, leveraging renewable power sources, particularly solar. The seventh edition of the Green Leadership focused on highlighting the value of sustained research and development expenditure, and the immense potential we have with

regards to solar energy."

Janahi, who opened the event, also moderated a keynote panel that centred on the role of research and development in meeting the needs of energy efficiency, ESCO markets and green investments.

Reiterating on 'How Shams Dubai drives Innovation and the Green Economy in the region', the second panel discussion focused on analysing permits, incentives and financing challenges connected to solar energy in Dubai, and in particular solar distributed generation.

Hybrid

54 creating green community

Launch of 2017
Toyota Prius in
UAE cements
hybrid technology
leadership



The new eco-friendly Prius is the catalyst for the UAE's environmental movement and brings a unique hybrid mobility experience.

Al-Futtaim Motors, exclusive distributor of Toyota in the UAE, has announced the launch of the 2017 Toyota Prius, the world's most popular hybrid car. The 2017 Prius, now in its fourth-generation, retains the striking exterior as well as its unique driving dynamics, but brings a new model to the fold, now available in ECO and ICONIC.

"Earlier this year, the Prius made waves when it hit UAE shores, bringing a unique hybrid mobility experience unlike anything else in the market and crafting for itself a following amongst not just our

individual customers, but also as a car of choice for corporations and Government entities, with unrivalled fuel efficiency that gets up to 26.1 kilometer per liter," said Saud Abbasi, Managing Director of Toyota at Al-Futtaim Motors.

"As the leader in hybrid motoring in the UAE, Al-Futtaim Motors has been working relentlessly to help accelerate the shift towards green mobility in the UAE. Hybrid vehicles are the immediate solution to the question of sustainable mobility, requiring no infrastructural development

on the part of the government, and no changes in driver behavior, easing not only the transition from traditional to hybrid, but also fast-tracking towards the country's sustainability goals."

2017 Prius is one of the most aerodynamic Toyota cars, offering a responsive, smooth and quiet drive unlike any other, and comes with an interior that maximizes driver comfort.

The new models come with a host of new safety features, including Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control System (TCS),



2017 Prius is one of the most aerodynamic Toyota cars, offering a responsive, smooth and quiet drive unlike any other.

Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Brake Assist (BA), Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD), Tire Pressure Warning System (TPWS) and 7 SRS Airbags standard across the range.

The 2017 Prius ECO comes with standard 6-speaker audio system with multi-format support and steering wheel controls, smart entry and push start button, 4.2" TFT Multi Information Display, LED headlamps and Daytime Running Lights (DRL), cruise control, front and rear fog lamps, rear parking sensors and 15-inch alloy wheels. The ICONIC grade

adds a JBL navigation system, telephone and voice recognition steering wheel controls, leather seats, head-up display, wireless charger, auto-dimming rear view mirror, Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, and rear view camera with guidance.

A choice of seven different exterior colours are available, including Emotional Red and Dark Blue Mica Metallic, in addition to two choices of fabric interior on the Prius ECO, and two choices of leather interior – cool gray and black – on the Prius ICONIC. The new 2017 Prius is available

across all Al-Futtaim showrooms and come with 8 year, unlimited mileage warranty. The ECO model is available for AED 82,900, while the ICONIC grade is priced at AED 97,900.



Nations take forward Global Climate Action at 2016 UN Climate Conference



[World leaders issue proclamation underlining 'irreversible' momentum; companies and investors to cities and regions announce new commitments in support of Paris Agreement.](#)

Countries accelerated global climate action across a broad range of areas at the 2016 UN climate change conference as they fast-tracked the political and practical aims of the historic Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Multi-billion and multi-million dollar packages of support for clean technologies; building capacity to report on climate action plans, and initiatives for boosting water and food security in developing countries were also among the many new announcements and initiatives

launched. Meanwhile governments set a rapid deadline of 2018 to complete the rule book for operationalizing the Paris Agreement to ensure confidence, cooperation and its success over the years and decades to come.

Businesses, investors, cities and local governments also issued new climate change commitments, adding to the thousands announced in the run up to the Paris climate conference last year.

For example, a club of subnational governments, the Under2 Coalition, who have committed to

reduce their emissions by at least 80 percent by 2020, announced their membership has grown to 165. The combined GDP of these 165 members is close to \$26 trillion – a third of the global economy – and cover a population of around one billion people living in North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum, a group of more than 40 vulnerable nations, released a declaration that strengthens the call to limit global temperature rise to as close to 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible. Their Marrakech Vision

MARRAKECH 2016

COP22 | CMP12 | CMA1

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة لتغير المناخ

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MARRAKECH 2016

COP22 | CMP12 | CMA1

THE MARRAKECH meeting was the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), known as COP 22.

commits these countries to various ambitious aims, including achieving 100% renewable energy between 2030 and 2050.

Several countries - Canada, Germany, Mexico and the United States - announced ambitious climate strategies out to 2050, reflecting the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement to achieve climate neutrality and a low-emission world in the second half of the century.

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC), said, “The landmark Paris Agreement set the course and the destination for global climate action. Here in Marrakesh, governments underlined that this shift is now urgent, irreversible and unstoppable”.

This new era of implementation and action for climate and for sustainable development was captured in the Marrakech Action Proclamation.

Mr. Mezouar, President of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22), said, “The Kingdom of Morocco is fully engaged in

the success of this COP and will energetically carry out its role as President. At the outcome of the last fifteen days, our vision has been consolidated and we are working to make concrete progress and to carry out breakthrough actions from now until the end of 2017”.

“It will be necessary to respect the commitment of \$100 billion dollars from now until 2020. Faced with the magnitude of what is required for dealing with the impacts of climate change, turning billions into trillions is indispensable. 2017 must be the



year of large scale projects, of mobilizing finance, and accessing financial facilities that will be necessary for adaptation,” he said.

Ms. Espinosa added, “During COP 22, the strength, the support for and the robustness of the Paris Agreement was further underlined, with nine more ratifications received at the UN in New York and the promise of many more to come. Nations reaffirmed that the agreement is in their national interests and a key catalyst to a more prosperous future for their citizens”.

COP 22, hosted by Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, saw almost 500 Heads of State or Government and Ministers attend. It also witnessed the first

meeting of the Paris Agreement’s top governing body following early entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November.

At the close Fiji was announced as the host of the 2017 UN climate conference, with Germany assisting the Pacific island nation by holding it in Bonn.

Key Outcomes and Initiatives

A crucial outcome of the Marrakesh climate conference was to move forward on writing the rule book, or operational manual, of the Paris Agreement. The agreement calls for a significant boost of transparency of action, including for measuring and accounting emissions reductions, the provision of

climate finance, and technology development and transfer.

It also includes work to design the adaptation communications, which is the primary vehicle under the Paris Agreement to share individual adaptation efforts and support needs.

Multilateral Assessment

At COP 22, seven developing countries presented updates and opened themselves to examination by their peers on how they are moving to a low carbon economy.

This fits into delivering a system for monitoring, verifying and reporting actions and opens the door to greater ambition under their climate action plans,

In a high-level Marrakech Action Proclamation, parties collectively declared that the “extraordinary momentum on climate change worldwide...is irreversible.”



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

called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency

During COP 22, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a multilateral funding arm, announced a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency backed by 11 developed country donors providing \$50 million-worth of funding.

NDC Partnership

Implementation of climate action plans also received a boost from the launch of the NDC Partnership – a coalition of developing and developed countries and international institutions working together to ensure countries receive the

technical and financial support they need to speedily meet their climate and sustainable development goals.

Governments also made progress across key areas of climate action, including climate finance, adaptation, capacity building, technology and gender-responsiveness.

Others initiatives launched

- UNEP launched a new global initiative, The Global Peatlands Initiative, which aims to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and save thousands of lives by protecting peatlands, the world's largest terrestrial organic soil carbon stock. The initiative will mobilize governments,

international organizations and academia in a targeted effort to protect peatlands, which contain almost 100 times more carbon than tropical forests.

- The Solar Impulse Foundation launched the World Alliance for Clean Technologies as a legacy to the first ever solar flight around the world. Its goal is to federate the main actors in the field of clean technologies to create synergies, give advice to governments, and promote profitable solutions to the world's most pressing environmental and health challenges.

- The first ever private adaptation and resilience investment vehicle, the



Marrakech Investment Committee for Adaptation Fund is a \$500 million fund launched in partnership with The Lightsmith Group, based in the United States, BeyA Capital, based in Africa, and the Global Environment Facility.

- Over the next four years, the MENA Climate Action Plan aims to nearly double the portion of World Bank financing dedicated to climate action, taking it to around \$1.5 billion per year by 2020.

Global Climate Action

Further impressive announcements were made by cities and sub-national governments to investors and business as part of the Global

Climate Action spearheaded by Climate Champions Laurence Tubiana and Hakima El Haité.

“Through our mandate as Champions, we have enhanced the participation of non-state actors, encouraging a range of initiatives, both individual and cooperative. The shift to a low-carbon future and a resilient civilization is something that is irreversible,” said Climate Champion Laurence Tubiana.

The High-Level Climate Champions launched the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to provide a strong roadmap for how the UNFCCC process will catalyse and support climate action by Parties and non-Party

stakeholders in the period 2017 to 2020.

Momentum for Change

The UNFCCC secretariat’s Momentum for Change initiative hosted a series of special events at COP 22 from 12 to 17 November. These events celebrated the 2016 Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities with inspiring videos, photography, roundtable discussions, an exhibition space and an evening award ceremony.

The Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities are some of the most innovative, scalable and replicable examples of what people are doing to address climate change – these events celebrated these solutions.



9,537 tons of waste collected during Clean up the World 2016

As many as 32,643 volunteers from 488 organizations, which include government and non-government establishments, community groups, schools and private firms, collected more than 9,537 tons of waste during this year's "Clean up the World" campaign organized by Dubai Municipality from 18 to 22 November.

The clean up drive was observed this year under the banner, "Our Place...Our Planet...Our Responsibility."

According to Eng. Taleb Julfar, Assistant Director General for Environment and Public Health Services Sector, "People from all walks of the society were involved in the cleanup activities

that contributed positively in enhancing the general appearance of the city."

"Dubai Municipality is organizing this annual community environmental initiative for the 23rd year in a row in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)," said Julfar. "In addition to the clean up, we also organized a range of other activities aimed at promoting positive environmental actions within our community. These include exhibitions, competitions, workshops/ awareness programs," he said.

AbdulMajeed Saifaie, Director of Waste Management Department and Head of Clean up the World 2016 Team said, "The number of

participants last year was 30,322, whereas this year it reached 32,643."

"During this year's campaign, 21 government departments participated with 1,170 volunteers, who collected 55 tons of waste whereas the number of participation from government educational institutions was 83 with 5,054 students, who collected 132 tons and 77 private educational institutions came with 7,219 students, who collected 138 tons of waste. The participation of private organizations such as companies and NGOs was also bigger this year, as 307 of them came with around 19,200 volunteers, who collected 512 tons of waste," said Sifaie.

Environment

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

Environment is the
'silent casualty' of
armed conflict



Top UN officials call for action to protect environment in times of war as despite the protection afforded by several important legal instruments, the environment continues to be the silent victim of armed conflicts worldwide.

As the world marked the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict on 6th November 2016, the scorched earth tactics being used by embattled ISIL militants in Iraq demonstrate that the environment is often a "silent casualty" of war, the heads of two UN bodies have pointed out.

In recent months in Iraq, oil wells have been set ablaze, turning the skies and soil black. Burning stockpiles of sulphur dioxide at an industrial facility created a large toxic cloud. The crisis

highlights a phenomenon that has been playing out for decades. Environmental destruction can impact the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the prospects of post-war recovery and lasting peace, and can serve as a driver of migration.

This is only one part of the picture, as the environment plays a complex role in many different aspects of conflict. At least 40 percent of internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources such as timber, diamonds, oil, fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural

resources have also been found to be more likely to relapse into conflict in the first five years after a peace deal has been signed.

"Among the unprecedented 65 million refugees in the world, many will have a story that includes ecocide. Wars are starting because of natural resources. They are being perpetuated because of natural resources. And we are seeing the environment being used as a weapon," said UN Environment head Erik Solheim. "Environmental protection needs to take a more prominent role in our response to conflict."



es for a better tomorrow

The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies.

The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict aims to highlight these links and prompt action.

“Families fleeing from Mosul have been impacted by years of living under ISIL and by the ongoing military operation, leaving them in urgent need of humanitarian aid and protection. Choking clouds and toxic fumes from burning oil wells and industrial facilities now add to their plight,” said Stephen O’Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief

Coordinator. “Protecting the environment during conflicts is critical to protecting human health and also the ability of communities and nations to recover after crises.”

The international community is working to produce stronger legal frameworks to protect our planet.

In May, all 193 member states of the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a resolution to protect the environment in areas affected by armed conflicts. In addition, the United Nations International Law Commission -

the General Assembly’s experts and trailblazers in international law - is developing guidance on how international and national laws can protect the environment before, during and after armed conflicts.

“Protecting the environment from armed conflict protects farmlands from the impacts of bombings, landmines and toxic pollution,” said Solheim. “It safeguards a fair and inclusive system for governing and using natural resources. It ensures healthy lives for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come.

Initiative

64 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 Environment, China collaborate on major South-South initiative



The new programme is a crucial element of long-term cooperation between China and UN Environment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 14th November 2016, the UN Environment launched a decade-long (2016-2025) flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL), supported by China and designed to assist countries in the Global South with effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate targets while improving the livelihoods of their people and protecting their ecosystems.

The flagship programme aims to seize the 'power of integration' of the SDGs, and will be led by UN Environment's International

Ecosystem Management Partnership.

UN Environment deputy chief, Ibrahim Thiaw, joined by several ministers and heads of UN and government agencies announced the flagship programme at The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation at the Marrakech climate conference - COP 22.

"It's the poor in developing countries who are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change on the ecosystems they depend on to for food, shelter and livelihoods," said Mr. Thiaw. "That is why I am

delighted to announce the new 10-year programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods along the Silk Road. It will not just benefit national targets, it will benefit real people.

"It will not only cement China's commitment to global leadership in tackling climate change and the environment, but also our shared determination to generate even more results through South-South Co-operation."

The new programme is a crucial element of long-term cooperation between China and



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

UN ENVIRONMENT'S International Ecosystem Management Partnership is the first UN Environment collaborating centre, in the South and for the South.

UN Environment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals - a set of 17 global objectives ranging from eliminating poverty and hunger to protecting biodiversity and combating climate change, to be achieved by 2030.

According to director of UN Environment's International Ecosystems Management Partnership, Jian Liu, "We are committed to dedicate all our efforts to work with people and institutions in the poorest and most vulnerable settings, with assistance from both Northern

and Southern partners."

The flagship programme aims to protect the most fragile ecosystems, such as drylands, river basins and coastal zones in Asia, West Asia and Africa.

It will be rolled out in three phases: Assessment (2016-2018), Development (2019-2021) and Scaling up (2022-2025).

The first phase of the programme will see a thorough survey of three types of "hotspots" - fragile ecosystems, biodiversity-rich areas and communities vulnerable

to climate change and ecosystem degradation.

The survey will be focused on the countries lying along the land and sea routes of the "New Silk Road" - an international connectivity and cooperation framework proposed by China. During the entire duration of the programme, UN Environment's International Ecosystem Management Partnership will be providing countries with assistance in monitoring and assessment, capacity building, technology demonstration and science for policy.



An Open Letter from Climate Scientists to US President-Elect Trump

This letter should be widely distributed and shared because US policy affects global policy and can have a serious impact on the Paris Agreement progress. In reality, the US policy has been impeding serious developments in international conventions related to the environment, especially climate change. Everybody was joyous when the US finally signed and later ratified an important legally binding agreement to stop climate change.

NASA stated that 2015 was the warmest year on record and 2016 is on track to be warmer still, but Mr. Trump has called climate change a Chinese hoax. He has appointed climate deniers and vowed to dismantle America's climate and clean energy policies. In response, more than 800 American scientists have signed an open letter urging him to protect America's economy, national security, and public health and safety by taking immediate and sustained action curbing climate change in six steps.

1. Make America a clean energy leader: Most Americans support renewable energy research and deployment. Embrace the enormous economic opportunities of transitioning to an energy-efficient, low-carbon society. Use part of your \$1 trillion commitment to infrastructure development to expand democratized clean energy, boost US competitiveness, and put America to work. "Wind technician" is the fastest growing job category in America, and the solar industry has hired more veterans than any other sector.
2. Reduce carbon pollution: Most Americans support cutting greenhouse gas emissions, curbing air and water pollution, and accelerating clean energy growth, innovation, and job opportunities. Federal agencies, including the EPA, Department of Energy and NAS, are key to achieving these goals.
3. Enhance America's climate preparedness and resilience: Increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters multiply the burden on all taxpayers. Invest therefore in modern, climate-resilient energy, transport, building and water infrastructure to protect America.
4. Acknowledge the urgent threat of human-caused climate change: No other government leader in the world deny climate science and virtually all climate scientists, most economists, military experts, fossil fuel companies and other business leaders, and two-thirds of Americans are worried about this issue.
5. Protect scientific integrity in policymaking in order to achieve promised scientific transparency and accountability by appointing scientific advisors, cabinet members and federal agency leaders who respect and rely on science-based decision-making.
6. Uphold America's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement. Reneging from this treaty - the product of 25 years of negotiations amongst almost every nation on Earth - would undermine our best chance to avoid dangerous climate change. It would also poorly represent the American people, the majority of whom support US participation in the Paris Agreement. The United States will lose its seat of influence at the international negotiating table, and will cede to China, the EU, and other countries its authority as a political, technological and moral leader.

We urge you to decide if you want your Presidency to be defined by denial and disaster, or acceptance and action.

A public petition, which can be signed at Change.org, accompanied the release of this letter.

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor

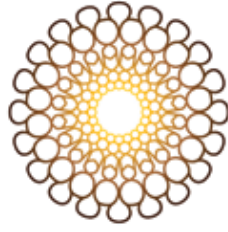
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