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Issue 179

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



YEAR OF ZAYED

UAE ushers in 2018 as the Year of Zayed



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Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

A beloved leader, a great statesman and a modern visionary – the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan continues to inspire us even today, a century after his birth. As the UAE marks 2018 as the 100th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, it is also a time to celebrate the virtues he lived by, and honour the legacy of our first President to whom we owe a substantial debt of gratitude.

It was his dedication and leadership, and his ambitious and far-ranging plans that paved the way for the newly formed UAE in 1971 to transform itself into a modern, 21st century nation. With his emphasis on the universal human values of peace and tolerance, humanitarian spirit and charity, he strove to create a world of coexistence and peace; welcoming different nationalities, religions, and cultures to the UAE but without abandoning its social and cultural identity.

A leader of the people and for the people, Sheikh Zayed expedited the infrastructural development of the country including schools, hospitals, ports, airports, road networks and grids for electricity and water, all of which laid the foundation of progressive development in other sectors.

He placed great emphasis on education and empowerment, and on the protection of natural resources. His involvement with environmental issues grew out of his respect for nature, a value that is embedded in the Bedouin culture. By looking at the totality of the ecosystem and promoting agricultural activities and combating desertification, and also preserving species, the decisions he took decades ago – before the term ‘sustainable development’ came into prominence – are reflected in the conservation and environment protection agenda of the UAE.

As an eternal source of national pride and a powerful symbol of the UAE around the world, there is much to emulate from Sheikh Zayed's life. Celebrating 2018 as the Year of Zayed is the great way to commemorate his noble values and timeless legacy and ensure that these ideals are passed on to the next generation.

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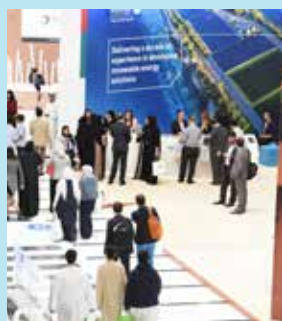
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From the Managing Editor



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

“Future generations will be living in a world that is very different from that to which we are accustomed. It is essential that we prepare ourselves and our children for that new world.”

- Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

These words, spoken decades ago, ring true today as the UAE marks 2018 as the ‘Year of Zayed’ to commemorate the timeless legacy and celebrate the vision of its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (Mercy be Upon Him), on his 100th birth anniversary. The Year of Zayed is an incredible opportunity to show our loyalty and gratitude to a leader whose selfless devotion to the welfare of his people and unshakeable commitment to building a modern nation continue to guide and inspire us even today.

A true people’s leader, a visionary thinker, a global figure, Sheikh Zayed’s wisdom, generosity and benevolence are legendary. Driven by a passionate belief in social, economic and environmental sustainability, Sheikh Zayed’s futuristic vision and deep-rooted values has driven the process of a comprehensive and sustainable development of the UAE.

Celebrating the Year of Zayed is also an opportunity to show the world how our wise leader has successfully transformed challenges into opportunities for development. From a barren, desert landscape just a few decades ago, the country has today metamorphosed into a global hub of innovation.

I am indebted for the opportunity given to be the member of an organization bearing the name of Sheikh Zayed that is serving to realize his legacy and vision of an inclusive model of sustainable development.

I am also proud that his vision continues to serve our leaders President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and all the Rulers of the individual emirates that make up the UAE. I also extend a heartfelt #Thank_you_Mohammed_bin_Zayed for taking the role of charting the path of progress forward in the footsteps of our beloved leader.

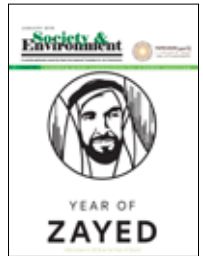
- Executive Editor**
Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad
- Managing Editor**
Dr. Meshgan Al Awar
- Advisor**
Dr. Eisa Abdellatif
- Editor**
Sangeetha Swaroop
editor@zayedprize.org.ae
- Design Director**
Nash - Intoto
nash@intotoadz.com
- Marketing**
marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Published by



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

P.O. Box 28399, Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 4 3326666
Fax: +971 4 3326777
Website: www.zayedprize.org.ae
email: secretary@zayedprize.org.ae



UAE ushers in
2018 as the
Year of Zayed



The UAE is paying a glowing tribute to its founding father by marking 2018 as the Year of Zayed.

“WEALTH IS NOT MONEY. WEALTH LIES IN MEN. THIS IS WHERE TRUE POWER LIES, THE POWER WE VALUE. THIS IS WHAT HAS CONVINCED US TO DIRECT ALL OUR RESOURCES TO BUILD THE INDIVIDUAL, AND TO USE THE WEALTH WHICH GOD HAS PROVIDED US IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION.”

- *Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

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YEAR OF ZAYED

The "Zayed Green Challenge smart platform", an innovative knowledge & education smart platform, was launched in tandem with UNEA3 in Nairobi.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces, tweeted as 2017 drew to a close: "We welcome 2018 with goodness ... the Year of Zayed ... a year of loyalty and gratitude to the founding father ... with wishes for more virtue, elevation, development for our dear homeland, and for our brothers and friends stability and peace".

The UAE thus ushered in the New Year eager and ready to share its pride with the global community in celebrating the timeless legacy of its founding father, the late Sheikh

Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The year 2018 has been chosen as it marks the 100th birth anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, who passed away in November 2004.

To commemorate this historic national occasion, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates has declared that 2018 will officially be known in the UAE as the Year of Zayed to serve as a symbol of the values of giving and tolerance cherished by the UAE

since its establishment.

The Founding Father of the UAE was instrumental in unifying this country, and entrusted the leadership and the people with some very noble ideals.

President Sheikh Khalifa therefore called on the nation's people to uphold the noble values instilled in them by Sheikh Zayed - wisdom, respect, determination, loyalty, a sense of belonging to the nation, promotion of peace and tolerance, environmental protection, and pioneering spirit and charity, amongst others.



These are the values that have transformed the UAE into one of the world's most open, tolerant and successful economies.

It has also emerged as a peaceful, progressive, pluralistic nation that is home to more than 200 nationalities. And it is this idea of the UAE that will be celebrated by nationals and expatriates alike.

The Year of Zayed will feature a series of events and initiatives in the UAE and internationally, designed to commemorate the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed, and showcase his impact and legacy, and promote the values that he displayed throughout his life in creative and interactive ways.

Consistent with the values of the

late Sheikh Zayed, it is intended that the Year of Zayed will involve people of all ages, nationalities, faiths and backgrounds in the UAE and internationally.

The Year of Zayed is being coordinated by the Founder's Office and Local Committees for the Year of Zayed established in each Emirate; all under the guidance of the Higher National Committee for the Year of Zayed.

The objectives of the Year of Zayed are as follows:

- Educate and create greater awareness of the life and achievements of the late Sheikh Zayed among local, regional and international audiences.
- Raise the profile of the late

Sheikh Zayed to that of one of the world's greatest leaders and most inspirational figures.

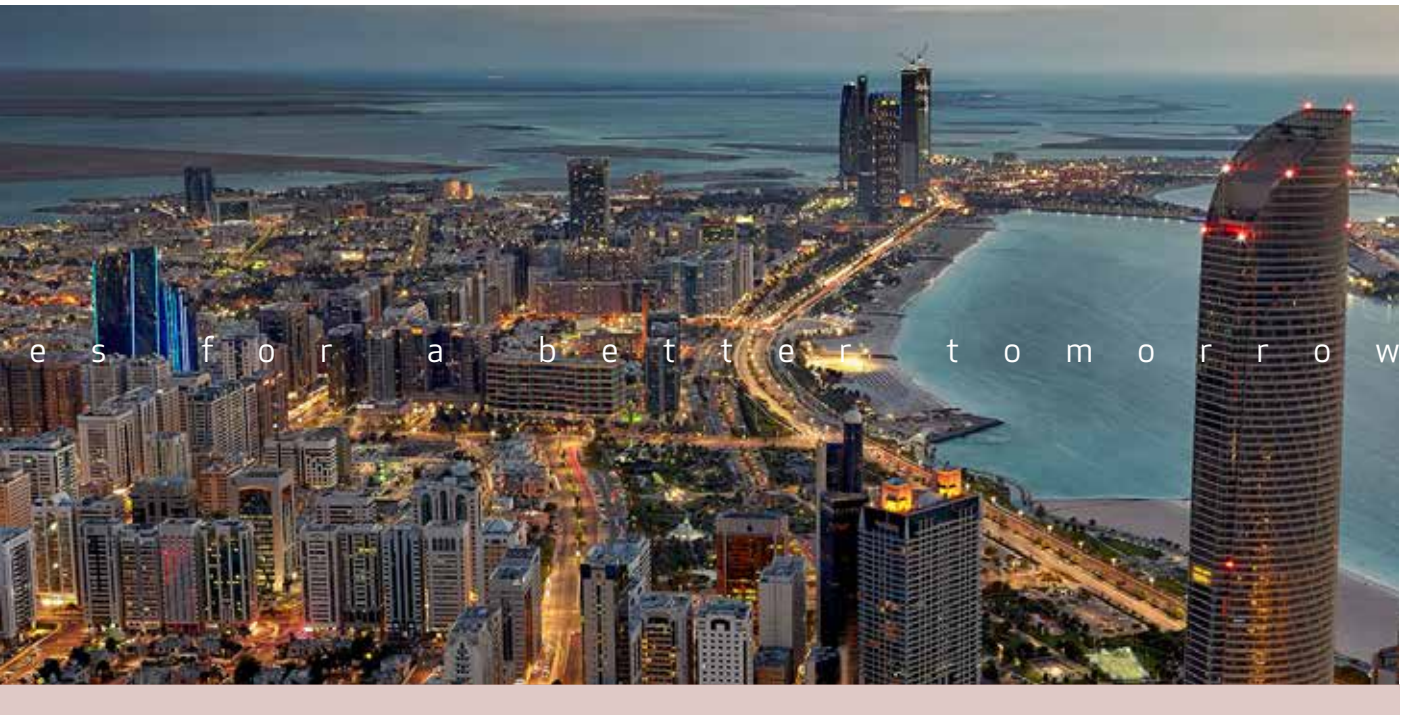
- Reinforce the status of the late Sheikh Zayed as an eternal source of national pride and a powerful symbol of the UAE around the world.
- Celebrate and honour the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed through projects and initiatives that are consistent with his vision and values.

Values

The themes of the Year of Zayed include the following values:

- Wisdom
- Respect
- Sustainability
- Human Development

The year 2018 will officially be known in the UAE as the Year of Zayed to serve as a symbol of the values of giving and tolerance cherished by the UAE since its establishment.



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

Wisdom

By virtue of his words, actions, foresight and judgment, Sheikh Zayed was widely recognized as a wise and visionary leader and an inspirational man. He not only imagined a better future for his people, but also had the wisdom and determination to make that ambitious vision a reality against all odds.

As the UAE's President, he made many wise decisions that would support the country's social development, economic strength and national security well into the future.

Respect

Throughout his life, Sheikh Zayed treated people with the utmost respect regardless of nationality,

gender, status or religion. As the UAE's President, he advocated strongly for the rights of women, highly valued the role of expatriates in the building of the UAE, and ultimately created the vibrant, diverse and cosmopolitan society that the UAE remains today.

Sustainability

From an early age, Sheikh Zayed had already established a deep personal connection with the desert and sea ecologies of Abu Dhabi and an innate understanding of the inherent value and fragility of the natural environment.

His lifelong commitment to sustainability became a hallmark of his Presidency that continues to shape the positive and constructive approach of the UAE to meeting

the world's greatest environmental challenges.

Human Development

Sheikh Zayed believed that investing in people's welfare, knowledge and capabilities would produce the greatest dividends for individuals, families and society.

As a leader, he authorized significant investments in healthcare and education facilities and other essential infrastructure in the UAE that rapidly transformed the country's social and economic outcomes and the quality of life enjoyed by its people. A global humanitarian, he also provided significant financial and in-kind assistance to a diverse range of people and countries in need around the world.

**'Year of Zayed 2018'
The Nation Pays Homage**





The leadership of the UAE reaffirms commitment to continue Sheikh Zayed's legacy and work, guided by his wisdom and vision.

“The building of mankind is difficult and hard. It represents, however, the real wealth of the country. This is not found in material wealth. It is made up of men, of children, and of future generations. It is this which constitutes the real treasure.”

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (1918-2004)

The year 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of the late founding father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. This was declared in 2017 by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, on the anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed's Accession Day - the day he assumed leadership in Abu Dhabi on 6th August 1966, marking the start of a new epoch in the history of United Arab Emirates.

The 'Year of Zayed' will highlight the role of the late leader in establishing the UAE Federation, and his local, regional and international achievements.

The 'Year of Zayed' will seek to achieve several objectives, including being a time to highlight the role of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in establishing the UAE and consolidating its foundations of modern development, with an emphasis on the nation's local, regional and global achievements, and continue to form the basis of this country's progress.

The Year of Zayed will seek to share Sheikh Zayed's values and principles, as well as one of the greatest world leaders, with an inspirational wisdom, vision and patience.

This celebration will strengthen Sheikh Zayed's stature as a symbol of patriotism and love for the nation.

The Year will be an opportunity to portray Sheikh Zayed's legacy in forthcoming projects and initiatives that express his vision and values.





**'Sheikh Zayed laid down solid foundations for
a strong, united nation'**

*His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates*

Declaring 2018 as the 'Year of Zayed', President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan said that setting 2018 as the Year of Zayed reflects the unique standing that the late leader holds with every Emirati as the founding leader of the Union.

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa said, "On this day, August 6th, a new era dawned upon us all when the late Sheikh Zayed assumed command of the Abu Dhabi government, and began the march towards unity, prosperity and societal development."

President Sheikh Khalifa pointed out that the late Sheikh Zayed was able to lay down solid foundations for a strong, united nation that balanced the requirements for modernity while preserving the cultural and social heritage of the UAE. This effective model has been a source of inspiration for countries seeking progress.

He said, "The Year of Zayed is a great national occasion when we will proudly share memories of the life of the founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his gift to us of deeply-rooted values, principles and traditions that have become part of our Emirati identity."

He added that this is especially true since the Union that Sheikh Zayed established with his brothers, the Rulers of the UAE, was based on unity and solidarity to build a progressive society that benefits everyone, and in which people live in security and stability.

The President called upon the nation's people to uphold the noble values instilled in them by the late Sheikh Zayed, including those of wisdom, respect, determination, loyalty, a sense of belonging to the nation, and a willingness to make sacrifices at whatever cost. His Highness also called for making 2018 a year of achievements, initiatives, events and programmes that reflect the great historical personality of the late Sheikh Zayed, highlighting his pioneering role, his vision and his sound leadership.

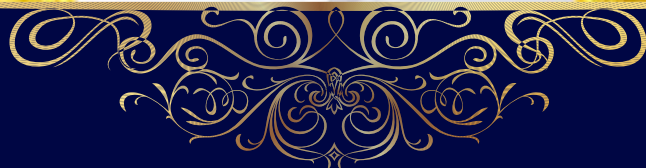
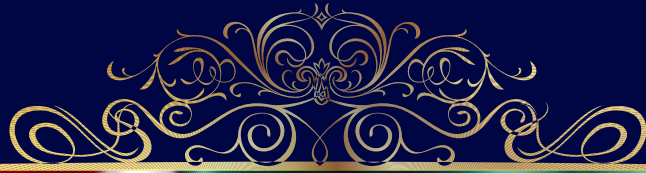
President Khalifa said, "As we celebrate the Year of Zayed, we shall reaffirm our commitment to continue his legacy and work, guided by his wisdom and vision."

"The 'School of Zayed'", he said, "is a source of inspiration for every step that the UAE takes; a solid foundation for the consolidation of the federal structure of our young nation; and a stepping stone for its future, full of strength and respect, leading up to the creation of one of the finest countries in the world."

He went on to say that Sheikh Zayed's real wealth was not in materialism, "but in his investment in the men and women who build the future of their nation. Therefore, we are a nation determined to follow in his footsteps, empowering Emirati people in all fields to contribute to their country's comprehensive and sustainable development."

His Highness the President stressed that the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed will remain alive not only in the hearts of the UAE people and Arab and Muslim nations, but throughout the world. This, the President said, is because the generosity of the late Sheikh Zayed whose initiatives and campaigns helped those in need around the world. Thus, commemorating 2017 as the 'Year of Giving' was an extension of his limitless giving.

The President added, "The Year of Zayed will be a year in which the nation preserves the legacy of Zayed, and our people will live the values of Zayed, and work together to fulfil the vision of Zayed."



'Sheikh Zayed has instilled in us the willpower and determination to challenge and achieve the impossible'

*His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai*

"We celebrate the centennial anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest and most noble men who dedicated his life for the present and future of the nation.

We are inspired by the Zayed school of leadership and management. With the founding blocks of the Union State placed by the late Sheikh Zayed, from which we are all reaping the benefits, we will continue this path and look forward with optimism to the future.

This is why we have launched the 'UAE Centennial 2071', which includes a comprehensive government programme with a national strategy to enhance the country's reputation and soft power and ensure that there are sustainable and diverse sources of government revenues. The aims are to invest in education that focuses on advanced technology, to build a system of ethical values for our future generations, to boost productivity of the national economy, and to enhance community cohesion.

The noble values and traditions of the late Sheikh Zayed represent a true wealth and a source of pride for all those in the UAE, an inexhaustible well of giving from which current and future generations learn how to sacrifice all that is precious for the homeland. This is a supreme goal that we adhere to, and one to which we all work towards, to have the strength needed to survive difficulties no matter how large they may be, armed with perseverance and patience.

Sheikh Zayed has instilled in us the willpower and determination to challenge and achieve the impossible. This is why we are always convinced that we are capable of being pioneers and to become one of the best countries in the world. He inspired us to see his way to the future, to follow in his footsteps with confidence and insight, and to consolidate the gains and achievements.

The late founding father was a role model of how a ruler interacted with his people. He was modest, and he personally checked on the needs of citizens. He would visit their homes and attend their occasions, thereby creating a unique bond with the people, becoming an inspiration to many in our region and the world.

He also had the ability to make the right decisions in all fields and implement them, thus establishing the foundations for a successful and effective government administration for our time."



**'Sheikh Zayed's principles will continue to inspire leadership,
sacrifice and sincerity'**

*His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of
the UAE Armed Forces*

“The Year of Zayed is an occasion to celebrate the achievements of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and its future impact. The UAE, under his leadership, has been able to rise to the ranks of developed nations and achieve great development at all levels.

The Emirati citizen was the most important element of development, as Sheikh Zayed’s main objective was to invest in building the Emirati person, believing in his or her ability to actively participate in the building of the nation. He has always emphasised that man is the most essential element of progress, and that the most precious wealth of this country is its people, who we must take care of well. There is no use for money without men. This is the philosophy that drives the process of comprehensive and sustainable development of this country.

The best way to celebrate the Year of Zayed would be by spreading Zayed’s glorious human and cultural legacy via all the people of the UAE, to continue his inspirational and noble values, and introduce these ideals to new generations.

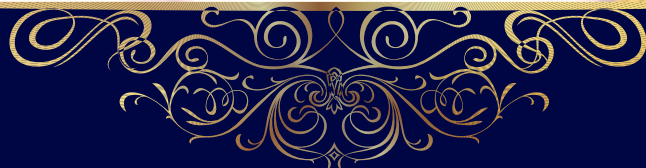
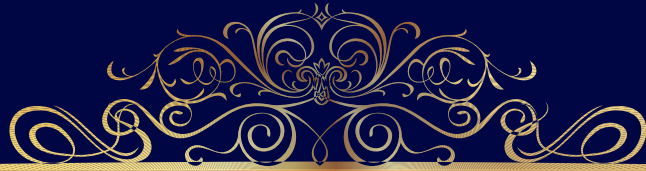
The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan laid the foundations for an integrated school of thought in governance and politics through interactions with UAE people. The late Ruler’s doors were always open to the citizens of the UAE to enable him to be better acquainted with their needs. He had an ability to make decisions without hesitation, especially those related to the security and stability of the homeland and its interests.

Sheikh Zayed applied a unique system of noble morals and values that shaped the conscience of the UAE people, creating a positive image of the UAE held globally. The UAE’s image is founded on a core belief system of tolerance and coexistence. Nations across the world call to uphold and strengthen this belief in light of the growing fanaticism and hatred that threatens international peace and security.

The late Sheikh Zayed established a global school of tolerance and coexistence because he knew that from the Union’s beginnings, the UAE’s uniqueness lay in its ability to welcome different races, religions, and cultures without abandoning its social and cultural identity. To celebrate the Year of Zayed in the best way possible, we must ensure that the glorious journey is continued, sharing the human and cultural heritage with all the people of the UAE, to carry forward its noble legacy and values, and inspire future generations.

Sheikh Zayed is an example for every Emirati citizen, and loyalty to his legacy must be followed through his principles and values. Today, we need to learn from these authentic national values, and draw lessons from them in order to continue developing the nation’s renaissance on the global map.

Sheikh Zayed’s legacy is a homogenous, harmonious system of human values and ethics. The late Sheikh Zayed’s principles will continue to inspire leadership, sacrifice and sincerity, and provide future generations with an on-going learning experience from his school of thought. President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan’s directives to strengthen the path of progress by remembering our past, living in the present, and aspiring to the future are the foundations and principles upon which the late Sheikh Zayed set the course of the UAE.”



**'Sheikh Zayed laid the values of goodness,
placed them on the UAE's priorities'**

*H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi
Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah*

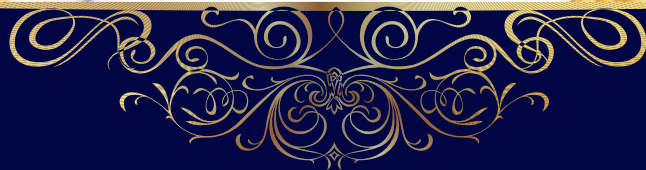
H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, has praised the directives made by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to set 2018 as the 'Year of Zayed', reflecting the UAE's determination to continue the approach laid by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the nation, in charitable and humanitarian work in all fields.

His Highness, the Ruler of Sharjah, said that the name of the late Sheikh Zayed is associated with noble deeds. He never failed to extend a helping hand to countries in need, and established the values of goodness and humanitarian action, placing them on the UAE's list of priorities. The late ruler was proactive in helping people in the areas of humanitarian response, making the UAE as a global leader in this field.

H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed explained that the people of the nation have followed the approach of the late Sheikh Zayed, where today we see the results of the planting of Zayed in his sons the most beautiful images of generous philanthropy and to make sacrifices for charity and serving countries in need.

His Highness added that the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan emphasised the importance of the UAE's approach to human service, marking the country as an oasis of security and tolerance enjoyed by citizens and residents alike.

"The 2018 declaration as the Year of Zayed is an opportunity to express our pride in the significant achievements founded by Sheikh Zayed, and to ensure the continued progress and development of the nation," he added.



**'Year of Zayed an opportunity to commemorate our
founding leader's achievements'**

*H.H. Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi
Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman*

H.H. Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman, has praised the directives made by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to set 2018 as the “Year of Zayed”.

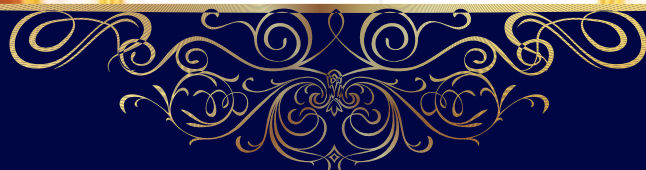
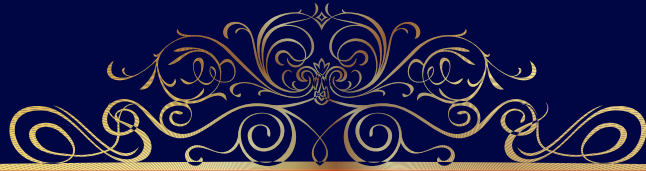
“Such a noble initiative will remind us of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan’s journey to glory,” he said.

Sheikh Humaid recalled that when he became the Ruler of Abu Dhabi in 1966, Sheikh Zayed was well aware that nations are strengthened by their people’s unity, amity and commitment.

“The late Sheikh Zayed was a visionary leader who transformed the UAE into a modern nation. The prosperity, security and stability we enjoy today were a result of his dedicated efforts to build capabilities and to wisely utilise resources for the progress of the UAE,” he added.

He concluded by saying that Sheikh Zayed’s legacy continues in the UAE, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.





**'Founding leader had pledged, honoured,
planted, and harvested for his nation'**

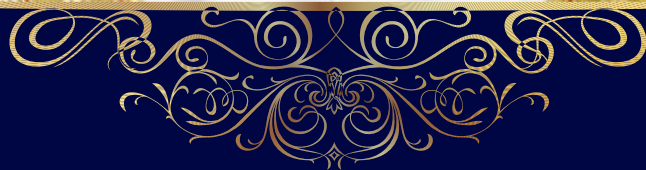
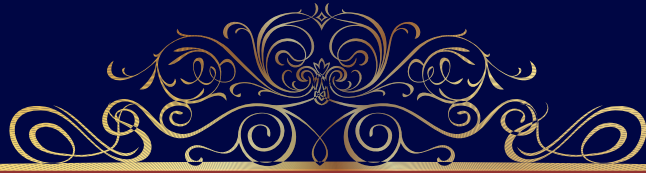
*H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla
Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Quwain*

H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Quwain, expressed his pride and honour at the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to declare 2018 as the 'Year of Zayed', a year of loyalty to the late Sheikh Zayed's goodness, humanitarianism and giving and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founding leader, who had pledged, honoured, planted and harvested for his nation, and created an immortal national history and humanitarian civilisation.

H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid said that Sheikh Zayed's talents in leadership and nationhood will be realised through the rise of a modern country that seeks prosperity for the whole of humanity and is strengthened by the arms of its children, who assumed their responsibilities to strengthen the nation's development and protect its gains, until their country, which is inseparable from the name of its late leader and founder, has become a living example of national endeavour and future foresight, and has deserved the appreciation of the entire world.

Sheikh Saud added that the new generation of givers, whose seeds were planted by the loyal Sheikh Zayed, are the fruits of a courageous leader and father, who have sworn an oath of loyalty and allegiance to honour his leadership, and take pride in his accomplishments and giving in all areas.

"Today, we remember the sacrifice of loyal men to be inspired by his spirit of patriotism and determination, to face our challenges and continue his journey of goodness and giving," His Highness said.



**'Sheikh Zayed's memory serves as the
foundation of life for the UAE people'**

*H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi
Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah*

H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah, praised the declaration of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan that 2018 will be the 'Year of Zayed'.

The Year of Zayed was declared to celebrate the achievements of the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and commemorate his memory, as he established the union and created a modern and civilised country, which has attained a prominent international position and reputation.

"The national initiative launched by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed is an opportunity to confirm our commitment to the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and express our loyalty to his legacy, as the inspiring leader who led his people to fulfill their dreams and overcome all obstacles to create the life that we enjoy today, after he established the union," said H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr.

His Highness added that 2018 will represent a remarkable landmark in the history of the country, where the UAE will present to the world the experience of Sheikh Zayed, who built the nation, invested in its human resources, promoted the values of giving and helped victims and vulnerable people globally, without discrimination.

Sheikh Saud stressed that Sheikh Zayed had placed science and education on the top of his priorities, as he believed that enlightened minds and educated hands could lead the journey of comprehensive development in the UAE. Sheikh Zayed's memory is considered the foundation of life for the people of the UAE, he added.

His Highness, the Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah, affirmed the commitment of local citizens to the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed while highlighting their sacrifice for the sake of the nation.



**'Sheikh Zayed's life is an inspiration for
future generations'**

*H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi
Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah*

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, has praised the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which declared 2018 as “Year of Zayed,” throughout the UAE, to be a national occasion celebrating the life of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

His Highness stressed that the slogan, “The Year of Zayed,” is a commitment for all Emiratis to preserve the culture of excellence, enhance their personal performance and improve their leadership skills in all areas of work.

H.H. Sheikh Hamad believes that the life of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, which represents an important period in the history of the UAE, reflects the wisdom that can benefit future generations and inspire the lives of people in all eras and places, based on investing in the community.

He added that the progress of the chosen nation in Sheikh Zayed’s ideology was not only a temporary strategy to achieve temporary goals, but it was a long-term strategy to create a future model of the UAE’s journey of development and prosperity.

“Today, we are proud that we are following in the footsteps of the late Sheikh Zayed, and his strategy to build the nation. We now know that we are a nation of great achievements,” he added.

His Highness further stated that the Year of Zayed could be a year of exceptional local and international success and a year of accomplishing greater achievements and advancing towards wider horizons, as the UAE becomes an increasingly influential nation in the global community and takes its place in leading this community.





'Who does not know Zayed? Who doesn't know the role he played in history? Who doesn't know his kindness and humanity? And his love for greater good?'

*His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai*

Following an announcement in August 2017 by UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan that 2018 will be commemorated as the Year of Zayed, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai shared a poem in Arabic honouring the UAE's Founding Father.

Sheikh Hamdan shared two Instagram posts; the first was his poem where he called people's attention to Sheikh Zayed's good deeds, stated the UAE daily, The National.

In the poem, Sheikh Hamdan said Sheikh Zayed achieved his dreams which was to make the UAE a place where people can reach their own goals that would otherwise have been difficult. He said that accomplishment was not a difficult task for Sheikh Zayed who, he said, achieved the impossible.

HH Sheikh Hamdan also thanked President Sheikh Khalifa for dedicating 2018 as the Year of Zayed, which was welcomed wholeheartedly by the people of the UAE and the rulers of each of the seven emirates.

In his post, Sheikh Hamdan said: "Who does not know Zayed? Who doesn't know the role he played in history? Who doesn't know his kindness and humanity? And his love for greater good?"

The Crown Prince emphasised that Sheikh Zayed was not only being remembered for the 100th anniversary of his birth but is indeed remembered every day and that his legacy will never be forgotten.

In an apparent reference to recent tensions in the region, The National quoted Sheikh Hamdan as saying that if Sheikh Zayed was alive today, his words and wisdom would be more beneficial than using force during these times of separation and difficulty.

He said such temperament makes him love and appreciate Sheikh Zayed even more.

"For Zayed was a patriot, an Arab, a Muslim and had inspirational ideas and loved all mankind without discrimination." Sheikh Hamdan ended the poem by challenging anyone to attempt to undermine Sheikh Zayed's legacy.

The second post shared by Sheikh Hamdan, according to The National, was a montage of pictures with overlaid music and a quote from Sheikh Zayed when he spoke about how men (mankind) were responsible for creating and leading industry.

He asks: "Who creates factories? Who customises them? Who manages them after they've been created?"

"Men create industry, men create their happiness, men create their lives, men create their futures."



'Sheikh Zayed is an example of dedicated leadership'

*H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi
Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah*

H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, has said that terming the year 2018 as the 'Year of Zayed' highlights the exceptional leadership qualities of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The wise leader set an example of dedication and love for his country while working on the development of the UAE with all his capabilities, investing in human resources by arming the youth with science and knowledge, and providing the appropriate environment for this purpose, H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed added.

"Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was an exceptional leader, who instilled the qualities of love and dedication for the country among its citizens, and worked for its development so that the nation's flag would remain aloft with honour and pride. He inculcated the values of solidarity, tolerance, and brotherhood among them, so they would grow up as a conscious and civilised generation, aware of their country's strengths and the importance of preserving them. President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brothers Their Highnesses the Rulers of the UAE, through their vision for the UAE, have followed the path set by Sheikh Zayed," Sheikh Sultan continued.

The Sharjah Crown Prince emphasised that the Year of Zayed was an opportunity to express pride in the UAE's accomplishments.

He stressed that the UAE's development journey would continue as per the vision of Sheikh Zayed, and will depend on the investment in the nation's people, who are the real wealth of countries. "We will see many accomplishments, and the achievement of several goals, which will strengthen the country's stature and establish its global position," he said.



'Zayed was a father, leader and inspiration'

*H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla
Crown Prince of Umm Al Qaiwain*

H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Crown Prince of Umm Al Qaiwain, has commended the announcement of the year 2018 as the 'Year of Zayed' by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The country will be celebrating the birth centenary of its founder and builder the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan next year.

In a statement, H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saud expressed his appreciation for President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for terming 2018 as the Year of Zayed, in honour of the journey of a leader whose life was marked by generosity and accomplishments.

By establishing the foundation of a young country, Sheikh Zayed has become a model of leadership and excellence in all fields, he added.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan was a father, leader and inspiration. Through his enlightened vision and wisdom, he created an exceptional place for the UAE among the advanced countries of the world, ensuring it is a secure, stable and flourishing nation. He planted the noble values and the love of giving among the people and made sure that the new generation developed a sense of belonging to the nation and remained connected to its heritage and history, Sheikh Rashid said.

Thank you, Mohamed bin Zayed: UAE Vice President



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum dedicates the 12th anniversary of his accession to the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has dedicated his accession day anniversary to thank His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for devoting his life to serving the nation and ensuring the happiness of its citizens.

“As we do every year, we issue instructions to not allocate celebratory events on the

accession day anniversary, which falls on 4th January. We usually launch a campaign to thank those who have affected our lives and served the nation,” HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said.

“Today, we urge the Emirati people to thank His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, who devoted his life to raising the stature of the nation and ensuring the happiness of its citizens,” His Highness Sheikh Mohammed tweeted.

“Few people know that His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin

Zayed works 18 hours a day for the UAE, and few people know that his annual leave does not exceed a week, and few people know that millions of children around the world are benefiting from his generosity and giving, which he does without fuss, and few people see him awake at night, sitting with our soldiers and reviewing development plans, to ensure a better future for our country in the years to come,” H.H. Sheikh Mohammed added.

“Thank you, Mohamed bin Zayed, for containing the march, honouring the martyrs, consoling



SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID has used the occasion to highlight the work of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, who also serves as Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

and comforting their families, and raising the banners of glory. Thank you, Mohamed bin Zayed, for your leadership, decisiveness and determination," H.H. Sheikh Mohammed continued.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed has, over the past few years, dedicated his accession day anniversary to thank the community.

Spectacular Illumination

Emiratis and residents soon took to the social media networks flooding them with messages of gratitude to Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed. They also decorated their

cars with posters of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the hashtag thanking him.

Malls and hypermarkets across the country also joined hands by decorating their facades with posters of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed and big 'Thank You' banners.

Iconic buildings across the UAE, including Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, were decked in UAE flag colours, portraits of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the hashtag #Thank_You-Mohamed_Bin_Zayed. Thousands of posts went up on

social media networks, including videos of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed paying visits to families of martyrs, saluting the UAE Armed Forces and sharing light moments with leaders and people of the UAE — young and old.



UAE marks successful participation at One Planet Summit in Paris



The summit also saw the participation of the presidents and representatives of 50 countries, as well as international and non-governmental organisations working to combat climate change.

The UAE delegation headed by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, participated in the One Planet Summit organised by France on 12th December, 2017, in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank to commemorate the second anniversary of the Paris Agreement.

The delegation, which included representatives from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, ADIA, and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar,

participated in discussions to identify the most viable steps to enhance the engagement of the business community in financing green projects through which the objectives of the Paris Agreement can be achieved.

Dr. Al-Zeyoudi said, "As an active partner in international efforts to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the UAE is taking proactive steps to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. We believe such early adoption of green measures can gradually help prevent the occurrence of

environmental disasters and related consequences that today impact every economic sector and segment of society. With the Paris Agreement coming into force, we reiterate the urgent need for the nations of the world to collaborate in our efforts to achieve its desired objectives. Only through doing so can we hope to make the necessary progress to reinforce existing initiatives and solutions that will contribute to creating a more prosperous future for generations to come."

Dr. Al-Zeyoudi participated in a joint panel discussion with



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

THE GROUNDWATER quality index is an annual strategic indicator for Dubai Municipality's Environment Department which measures the state of groundwater in the emirate.

Roosevelt Skerit, Prime Minister of Dominica, Dr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Ethiopia, and Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, at its Executive Board in New York. The panel examined the development of public policies to support and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, with a focus on increasing national capacities to cope with climate change.

Highlighting the need for long-term policies on adaptive

capacity to climate change, the session also examined how poorer countries can make themselves more adaptable to the new climate reality. The One Planet Summit discussions also explored the challenges of financing climate action and underlined the need to align financing practices across the board to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, primarily those focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the population from the impact of climate change.

“The UAE has allocated

approximately US\$1 billion in renewable energy investments since 2013 to supporting the economies of many countries and stepping up their capacity to reduce and adapt to the impact of climate change. It is vital to commence rapid implementation of several effective solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change, and explore methods of developing early warning systems, and enhancing predictive funding to fully prepare for these consequences while factoring in the significant impact climate change can have on all forms of life - without exception,” Al-

THERE IS NO PLANET B.

PARIS - DECEMBER, 12 2017
#ONEPLANET

ONE PLANET
SUMMIT



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creating green community

Zeyoudi added. The summit reiterated that the next few years would be critical for all stakeholders and necessitate urgent action to bridge the gap between current greenhouse gas emissions and desired levels, as also to reduce global warming to below 1.5 Celsius or 2 Celsius.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi also stated that the UAE's participation in the Paris Climate Summit has enabled its delegation to inform the world about the nation's efforts to reduce climate change on national, regional and international levels.

In an interview with the Emirates News Agency, WAM, on the sidelines of the summit, Al

Zeyoudi said that the UAE's participation in this important international summit has provided an opportunity to present its experience in investing in clean and renewable energy during the last decade.

"We actually succeeded in delivering a global message to all the participating countries at the Paris Climate Summit that the UAE has managed to advance its role in promoting clean energy, due to its efforts and persistence, despite the ongoing use of hydrocarbons, as well as the development of its national human resources in this area," Al Zeyoudi added.

He went on to say that since its investment in clean energy, the

UAE focuses on involving its human resources in the area of development, both inside and outside of the country.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi affirmed that the Emirati participation in the summit was an important opportunity to present the UAE's experience to Pacific and Caribbean countries, to assist them in re-developing their economies, following the serious weather conditions they recently experienced.

In his reply to a question on the UAE's experience in the green economy, he said that investing in this area means directly investing in clean energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.



UAE celebrates Gulf Wildlife Day under the theme 'Towards a Sustainable Natural Life'

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment celebrated the third Gulf Wildlife Day on December 30 under the theme 'Towards a Sustainable Natural Life' with the aim of enhancing co-operation in the field of wildlife conservation among countries of the GCC region.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "The UAE plays a key role in wildlife conservation. Our country comprises a range of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Our government works relentlessly to preserve its rich biodiversity through adopting legislation and initiatives designed to achieve the goals of the National Biodiversity Strategy by 2021."

He added, "Within the framework of our Wildlife Sustainability Programme, we are working on developing and implementing an integrated package of policies, procedures and research activities concerning the conservation of native species, as well as regulations of trade in flora and fauna in line with international environmental conventions."

The goals of the programme, said Dr. Al Zeyoudi, are identifying invasive species and implementing mechanisms to control their spread as well as prevent their further imports. To date, we have initiated several significant steps, such as the National Red List of Threatened Species Project and the National Invasive Species Project."

He added, "The Ministry is co-ordinating with relevant local authorities to increase the number of natural protected areas in the UAE with the aim of achieving sustainability of threatened species and conserving important natural habitats. Protected areas contribute to maintaining environmental balance, safeguarding genetic resources, as well as restoring degraded ecosystems and rehabilitating species at risk of extinction."

The UAE already has several species rehabilitation initiatives in place, most notably breeding programmes for the houbara bustard, Arabian oryx, Arabian leopard and various birds of prey, such as the saker and peregrine falcons.

WFES 2018

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

World Future Energy Summit 2018 to map transition to a sustainable economy



[WFES 2018 will also include the Climate Innovation Exchange \(CLIX\), which aims to match the world's top "cleantech" entrepreneurs with investors to encourage technology that makes products and services more sustainable.](#)

The World Future Energy Summit (WFES), the top global event for advancing renewable energy and clean technology, will return to Abu Dhabi from 15-18 January 2018. Part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), the 11th WFES will showcase solutions and innovations that will transform how energy is created, stored and consumed around the world.

Taking place at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, more than 30,000 visitors including investors, innovators, experts and policy makers from approximately

175 countries are expected to attend the summit, which is hosted by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, said: "Over the last 12 months we have seen the growth of the renewable energy sector continue to accelerate, thanks to further advances in technology, greater access to financing and more supportive regulations. Today, the market potential for clean technologies is vast, but this entails challenges as well as opportunities."

"The World Future Energy Summit is playing a critical role in maintaining the forward momentum the renewables sector has witnessed in recent years, providing a platform for high-level debate and collaboration," added Al Ramahi.

UAE authorities and industry leaders including the Ministry of Energy, Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA), Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority (ADWEA), Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce, Emirates Global Aluminium and Emirates Nuclear Energy Company will participate



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

MORE THAN 30,000 delegates and attendees from up to 175 countries are expected to visit Abu Dhabi for WFES 2018.

alongside global businesses including GE, TOTAL and Siemens.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA, said: "In line with the directives of the wise leadership of the UAE and as part of our efforts to achieve the objectives of the UAE Centennial 2071, the UAE Vision 2021, and the Dubai Plan 2021, we are pleased to participate in the World Future Energy Summit once again, to exchange expertise and best practices, and share our research and development efforts to develop innovative and sustainable solutions in clean and

renewable energy and streamline efforts to address the current challenges facing the energy sector.

"At WFES, we will highlight our efforts in developing major renewable energy projects, especially the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which is the largest single-site solar power project in the world, with total investments of AED 50 billion and a production capacity of 5,000MW by 2030. These efforts support the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to transform Dubai into a global

hub for clean energy and green economy, and generate 75% of Dubai's total power output from clean energy sources by 2050."

HE Dr. Saif Saleh Al Sayari, Director General of Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority (ADWEA), said: "ADWEA is dedicated to working towards a more sustainable future as we strive to meet the Abu Dhabi 2030 vision. New innovations and technologies are transforming the energy sector and enabling significant improvements in efficiency and performance standards."



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Green power: UAE's renewable energy transition

WFES 2018 comes as the UAE and Middle East take action to significantly increase the role of renewable energy in the energy mix, while helping to mitigate climate change.

The "UAE Energy Plan 2050", which was announced in January 2017, estimates that the transition to green energy will save AED700 billion (\$191 billion) by 2050.

Growing demand for renewable energy is also providing an economic boost for the Middle East and North Africa.

By 2020, the International Renewable Energy Agency

(IRENA) has forecast that the MENA region is set to attract \$35 billion in renewable energy investment.

WFES will include three exhibitions covering solar power, energy efficiency and energy storage/batteries. These events will also feature discussion on a trend affecting all energy markets – digitalisation and disruptive technologies, including electric cars and "smart cities".

A zone for sustainable transport will showcase clean energy vehicles and host 'The Mobility Conference' about the future of mobility (in transport and technology), and the creation of smart and sustainable societies.

Cleantech start-ups

Clean technologies will also be discussed at the Climate Innovation Exchange (CLIX) event.

Hosted by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, CLIX has attracted more than 250 start-ups from around the world interested in pitching their climate change solutions to investors during the event, with the aim of raising funding for their businesses.

The top 30 will be selected to present to potential funders live during WFES. There will also be educational and youth engagement sessions covering a range of topics, including new career opportunities driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



'My Environment, My National Responsibility' exhibition opens in Dubai

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, inaugurated the ninth edition of the 'My Environment, My National Responsibility' exhibition at Dubai's Creek Park. The four-day event concluded on December 23rd and attracted around 2,000 visitors.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi commended the UAE's environmental conservation efforts. He also underscored the importance of raising environmental awareness among the country's young generation that plays an integral part in helping the MOCCA achieve the UAE's strategic sustainability objectives and the wider region.

Dr. Al-Zeyoudi said, "With its relentless efforts to protect the environment and preserve its natural resources and habitats, the UAE has established benchmarks in sustainability on a regional and global level. Inspired by the legacy of the founding father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who paved the way for the nation's environmental journey, and supported by our wise leadership, MOCCA is committed to raising environmental awareness in society, particularly among the youth."

"Educating the young generation on the importance of preserving our natural heritage is a vital priority that contributes to achieving the Ministry's strategic

objectives and implementing its sustainability agenda," he added.

My Environment, My National Responsibility exhibition drives home the need to adopt a sustainable lifestyle to preserve the planet for future generations.

The event highlighted six focus areas: the environmental achievements of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the basics of agriculture, endangered animals, saving water and energy, waste sorting and recycling, and preserving the UAE's marine life. It also aimed to introduce children to the concepts of sustainability of natural resources and environmental conservation, and comprised of eight themed pavilions.

EcoWASTE 2018

42 c r e a t i n g

Industry leading waste management solutions and strategies to take centre stage at EcoWASTE Exhibition 2018



EcoWASTE 2018 will highlight disruptive solutions and innovative strategies to enable new methods for waste management in the Middle East.

EcoWASTE Exhibition will be held for the fifth successive year in 2018 in Abu Dhabi, with a focus on advancing sustainable waste management and recycling across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

As a platform to establish a future-centric agenda and lead dialogue in the industry, EcoWASTE Exhibition will bring together businesses, policymakers, municipalities, innovators, and thought leaders at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre from January 15 - 18, 2018. The event is run in strategic

partnership with Tadweer (The Centre of Waste Management – Abu Dhabi), and hosted by Masdar as part of the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

During the event, EcoWASTE Exhibition will host Waste Management Solutions Forum which aims to identify challenges and solutions around sustainable waste management. The forum is a premium event that will bring together subject experts and industry leaders to lead the discussion on key issues in waste management. These include reducing the volumes of

solid waste sent to landfills, the rise of waste-to-energy in the region, leveraging big data to better manage services, and new innovations and best practice strategies for sustainable waste management.

With increasing volumes of waste generated across the region, effective strategies for turning waste to resource are imperative, and this will be driven through the use of advanced technologies. In the Middle East, the high rate of population growth, urbanization and economic expansion is not only accelerating consumption



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

THE 2018 EcoWASTE Exhibition will bring together more 6,900 visitors from 71 countries with strong exhibitor participation from across the MENA region.

rates but also increasing the generation rate of all sorts of waste as a result. With the gross urban waste generation reported to cross 150 million tons per annum across the region, local municipalities, including those in the UAE, are developing waste reduction and diversion strategies to minimise landfill stress.

These strategies include plans to develop waste-to-energy facilities for incinerating waste and providing energy that can supplement a country's electricity needs and diversify its energy mix, in addition to contributing to the UAE's goal of

diverting 75% of waste away from landfills by 2021.

Abdulrahman Al Blooshi, Strategic Planning and Policy Director at Tadweer, said: "Today we are faced with growing populations and the emergence of new waste related challenges that did not exist a decade ago. Due to the rising volumes of waste, whether from homes, businesses, and industries, we must create innovative strategies to pioneer a new era in waste management, which will be enhanced by the benefits of private sector partnerships. Through our

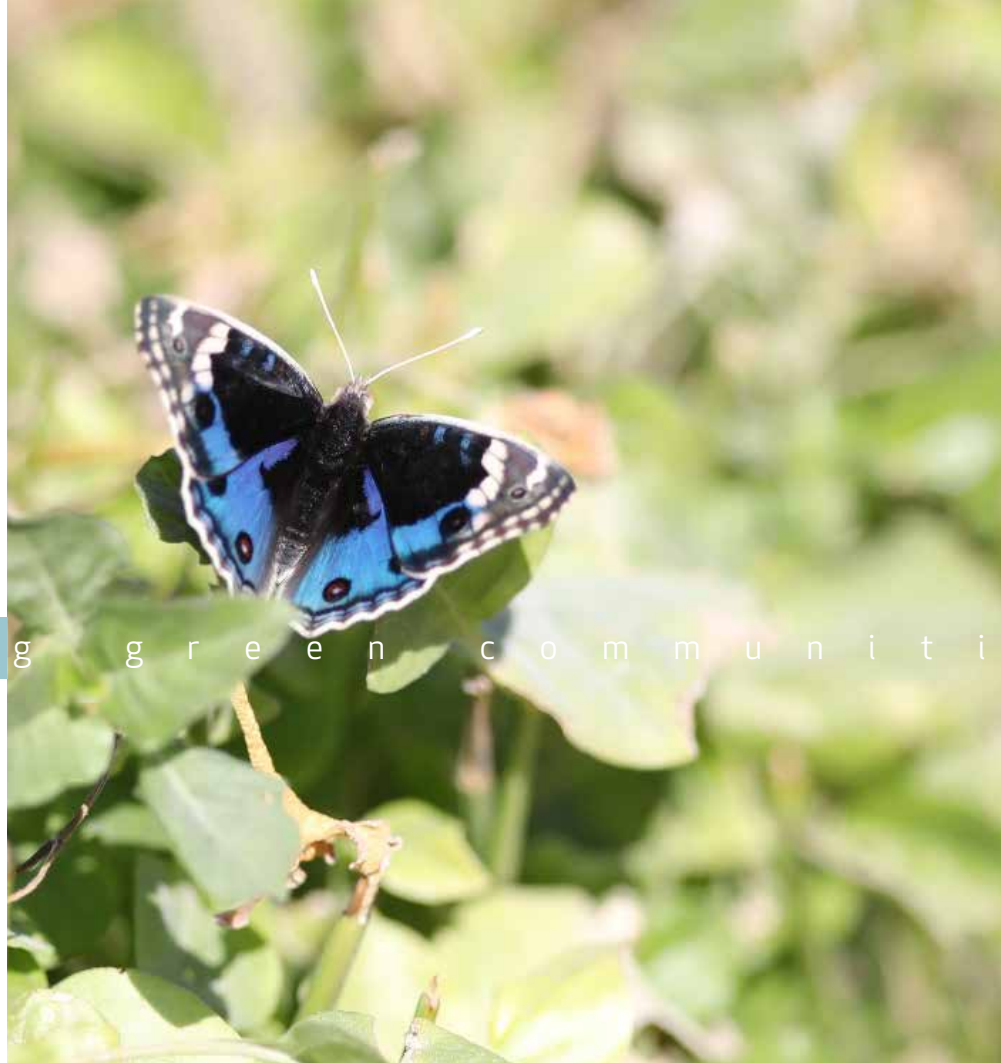
participation at EcoWASTE 2018, we will demonstrate how Tadweer is enabling a sustainable future for the UAE, and establish new benchmarks for waste management."

Naji El Haddad, Group Event Director at Reed Exhibitions, the organisers of the EcoWASTE Exhibition commented: "The exhibition aims to bridge the gap between various stakeholders in the ecosystem, whilst enabling business opportunities and partnerships that will elevate sustainable economic growth in the region."

Wildlife

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

Dubai Safari attracts migratory birds and butterflies too



Dubai Safari, inaugurated in December 2017, is not only home to wildlife from around the world but has also become a hub for receiving migratory birds and local UAE birds.

Since it opened its doors to the public in December 2017, the Conservation Team of Dubai Safari has already recorded nearly 80 species of birds, 70% of which are migratory and the rest are resident, either breeding inside the Safari or its neighbourhood. Most recent arrivals are four sub-adult Greater Flamingoes, which have migrated to the UAE with a small population, breeding in islands in Abu Dhabi. The migratory birds come from northern Iran and parts of Central Asia.

The Safari Conservation Team,

headed by Dr. Reza Khan, Principal Wildlife Specialist based in Dubai Safari, is responsible for recording the plants that are growing naturally in the Safari and the animals visiting the Safari on transit or becoming permanent residents there.

During this winter, Dubai Safari has received four new passage migrants as guests for the first time. These are the Daurian or Isabelline Shrike, Temminck's Stint, Common Sandpiper and Wood Sandpiper. These birds and many water loving birds are using the lavishly built pools, lakes

and ponds of Dubai Safari, which exhibits a wide variety of animals. Wetland birds such as herons, ducks, waders and local Red-wattled Lapwing and Back-winged Stilts are enjoying the water bodies in the park.

The Conservation team has also recorded over three dozen species of plant seeds, which must have come along the other imported or locally procured plants, and with the sand and soil brought from outside. These plants are adding beauty to several thousand plants already planted in the Safari.



s f o r a b e t e r

DURING THIS winter, Dubai Safari has received four new passage migrants as guests for the first time.

While on a tour of the Safari early in the morning Dr. Khan noted three specimens of Daurian Shrike that is also called Isabelline Shrike, which is a resident of Central Asia and parts of Europe. The other three species are called waders or shorebirds that usually breed in parts of Asia and Europe, even in areas in Siberia in Russia. These waders migrate from their breeding grounds to the Arabia, Middle East and then head to the coastal areas of the Red Sea and East Coast of Africa during the three seasons. First they come in autumn, then in winter and again in spring.

“Recording of some 80 species of birds and nearly 35 species of plants from Safari are proving that Dubai Safari is the future for many new bird species getting their suitable transit homes for the migrants and permanent



homes for the local ones. Dubai Safari is paying a kind of dividend to the Emirati people by becoming an attractive site for birds and other animals as well as some local and exotic plants,” said Dr. Reza Khan.



Sustainability

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

Cleveland Clinic
Abu Dhabi
supports UAE
sustainability goals



Hospital innovates in landscaping irrigation; decreases water usage by 30 percent

Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi has reduced the amount of water it uses by nearly a third as part of its ongoing attempts to become one of the greenest hospitals in the region.

Located in the Arabian Peninsula, where rainfall is scarce and surrounded only by salt water, the UAE is charged with cutting its reliance on desalination plants. The hospital reduced the amount of domestic water it was using by 30 percent - saving more than four Olympic swimming pools worth of water per month - in the nine months to the end of September 2017.

According to a report released recently by the hospital's in-house sustainability team, monthly water usage within the hospital fell from 28,787 cubic meters in December 2016 to 19,830 cubic meters in September 2017.

That means that over the first nine months of 2017, without compromising patient safety and while providing excellent care, the hospital has saved more than 20 million gallons of water - enough to fill 400,000 baths or nearly 40 Olympic swimming pools. By using condensed water from the air conditioning system for irrigation

and by changing the plant mix in its grounds to include more native species, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi succeeded in cutting the amount of mains water it used for irrigation by two thirds.

Irrigation water usage fell from 3,978 cubic meters in December 2016 to just 1,092 cubic meters in September 2017 - saving the equivalent of one and a half Olympic swimming pools worth of water a month.

From November 2017, around 70 percent of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's hot water demand has been met by solar water heaters



es for a better tomorrow

HOSPITALS TYPICALLY use around twice the amount of energy of similarly-sized office buildings.

– something which will save the hospital Dh750,000 a year on its utility bills and further reduce the hospital’s carbon footprint.

The move is part of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi’s ongoing commitment to becoming one of the most ‘green’ healthcare facilities in the region.

“Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi was designed to meet the highest sustainability standards in the GCC,” said Mawadhah Al Hashemi, sustainability manager at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. “In the journey of sustainability, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels – we are

constantly looking for ways to innovate and reduce our use of resources including water and electricity.”

“The healthcare industry globally is one of the most resource-intensive commercial occupiers in the world and I am very proud our hospital continues to work hard every day to become more and more environmentally sustainable.”

To reduce carbon emissions, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi in 2017 became one of the first hospitals in the MENA region to use a ‘greenhouse gas tool’ to quantify and

exhaustively log the exact amounts of greenhouse gas emissions the hospital produces in the hope of then being able to reduce them.

In 2014, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi became the largest hospital in the GCC to have been awarded a LEED Gold sustainability certificate for new construction.

The hospital has been designed to include an innovative ‘double skin’ exterior which provides an air buffer between the indoor and outdoor environment, reducing the amount of cooling the iconic building requires.

Green Certification

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

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts named world's most sustainable hotel group



International hospitality firm declared a 'global sustainability leader' by world-renowned certification body as more than 50% of its accredited properties achieve 'Gold' status.

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts has been named the world's most sustainable hotel group for the second year running by world-renowned certification body Green Globe.

The international hospitality firm has also been hailed a "global sustainability leader" in the 'Green Globe Report 2017, with more than 50% of its certified properties worldwide achieving the entity's prestigious 'Gold' status – an accolade bestowed on hotels and resorts that have achieved Green Globe certification for five years or more.

These properties have been independently audited across 385 performance indicators and consistently met or exceeded the standards and criteria this rigorous certification process entails.

"This year is an important milestone on the Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts sustainability journey," said Green Globe CEO Guido Bauer.

"More than half of all Green Globe certified hotels in the group have achieved Gold status. This is a true indication of the consistent

dedication that management and staff have put in and continue to give while doing the best for the planet and their people. It shows that sustainability is now woven into the operational fabric of the hotels."

For the last 25 years, Green Globe has set the highest standards of sustainability certification for the travel and tourism industry.

The key requirement is for properties to execute an active Sustainability Management Plan that delivers performance in the areas of socio-economic



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

LOOKING TO 2018, the hospitality firm has set ambitious Green Globe targets for its new and existing properties.

contribution; environmental protection; and the preservation of culture and heritage.

For each Green Globe certified Mövenpick hotel and resort, this plan is activated via an in-house green team and, to ensure verification of these actions, an independent on-site inspection is regularly conducted.

Best practice examples highlighted in the Green Globe report include: Mövenpick Hotel Stuttgart Airport in Germany for cutting energy consumption by 36% and rolling out an effective

CO2 reduction programme; Mövenpick Hotel Ibn Battuta Gate in Dubai achieving an annual waste reduction of 60 metric tonnes; Mövenpick Resort El Quseir in Egypt developing an artificial reef to protect endangered coral reefs, which are vital to sustaining the bio-diversity; Mövenpick Resort Sharm El Sheikh's organic farm featuring 2,232 square metres of fruit trees, vegetables and flowers, generating fresh produce for the hotel's kitchen and offering guests an authentic experience; and Mövenpick Resort Bangtao Beach in Phuket installing an innovative high-tech

water supply machine.

All of these initiatives are part of Mövenpick's successful CSR programme SHINE, which focuses on three pillars - Environment, Employer and Social Sustainability - with Education an important thread common to each.

SHINE's overarching aim is to give back to the communities where the company operates its properties and as a major facet of each hotel's Sustainability Management Plan, is crucial to Mövenpick achieving its Green Globe certification.

Campaign

50 creating greener communities

34,000
volunteers collect
6,000 tons of
waste during
clean up drive in
Dubai



Several awareness activities were also held as part of 24th Clean Up the World campaign in Dubai that began with the inauguration of the “Awareness Forum for Students.”

More than 34,000 volunteers collected over 6,000 tonnes of waste from various locations in Dubai during a weeklong clean up drive as Dubai Municipality concluded its 24th Clean Up the World campaign, held under the slogan, “Our place, our planet, our responsibility”.

Volunteers from 512 government, private and non-governmental organizations collected the waste from the desert, coastal, residential, and market locations of the campaign during the week-long clean-up drive held in

December 2017.

Eng. Talib Julfar, Assistant Director General of Dubai Municipality for Environment and Public Health Services Sector said that the aim of this event is to develop positive behavior towards the local environment and enhance social responsibility towards the country.

“This year, many private companies were involved in waste collection using heavy vehicles. In addition to that there was a wide range of participation of our student community from the

public and private schools with a total of 15,215 volunteers.

“We are very pleased with the large participation of the volunteers, who were brought together by the love of the environment and volunteering,” pointed out Julfar.

Eng. Abdulmajeed Sifai, Director of Waste Management Department and Clean Up the World Campaign Leader said that the activities of this year began with the inauguration of the “Awareness Forum for Students”, in which lectures and awareness



MORE THAN 34,000 volunteers from 512 government, private and non-governmental organisations took part in the clean-up drive.

papers were given to more than 700 students at the New World School.

“The event also saw the participation of awareness leaders like the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department.

“We also carried out a number of initiatives that enhance the culture of waste sorting such as the Giant Bag initiative at the

Lulu Hypermarket in Al Barsha, through which we could collect more than a million plastic bottles and the “Recover the value of your waste in food coupons” campaign, through which we could encourage a large segment of the public on the importance of proper and sustainable disposal of recyclable household waste,” he said.

Sifai added that the campaign team also organized the “Awareness Oasis,” an educational and recreational activity at Creek Park, which included the participation of children and their families in a number of

educational games that develop their abilities to “properly sort waste and maximize the benefit from their household waste.”

“We also organized a special competition for the public schools in the Emirate of Dubai to collect recyclable materials.

In addition to that the team also conducted an exhibition at Dubai Municipality Headquarters on the project “Smart Sustainability Oasis” to educate the Municipality staff and customers on the importance of sorting and reducing waste,” he said.



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

Dubai's The Sustainable City named the 'Best Mixed-Use Development in the Middle East'

The Sustainable City – the Middle East's first fully fledged sustainable development – has won two top accolades at the International Property Awards 2017 including the coveted 'Best Mixed-Used Development in the Middle East' and 'Best Public Service in the Middle East' awards.

Diamond Developers, the company behind The Sustainable City, was represented by CEO Faris Saeed at the awards ceremony. Faris Saeed commented: "At The Sustainable City, our mission is to offer our residents an exceptional quality of life and a state-of-the-art residential environment, combined with fully integrated sustainable solutions that further our government's vision for a

cleaner and brighter future. The sustainable solutions and green design of the city go beyond residential villas and include state of the art educational, health, and leisure facilities. We are honoured to have received these awards because they prove that sustainability can be applied to all kinds and sizes of developments."

The Sustainable City is a mixed-use development spread over five million square feet, incorporating residential villas, the recently launched Indigo Hotel, a soon-to-open school, and comprehensive rehabilitation hospital.

The community focuses on the three elements of sustainability – social, environment and economics – and stands as a unique blueprint

for sustainable, clean and responsible living that supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy and the Dubai Plan 2021.

The recognition follows The Sustainable City's impressive performance at the Arabian Property Awards earlier this year, where it won the 'Best Residential Development', 'Best Residential Property', 'Best Mixed-Use Development' and 'Best Public Service Development' awards.

The Sustainable City in Dubai redefines sustainable living through its energy efficient housing, first Net Zero Energy city, net Zero service or maintenance fees, green education and health care, eco-attractions, urban farming, and an Innovation Centre.



'The Big Swim Dubai' raises awareness about single-use plastic pollution and its impact on marine life

Three Dubai residents - Kieran Ballard-Tremer, Brett Hallam and Lottie Lucas - completed the first UAE coastline swim (85km) in support of Drop it #rethinkplastic - an initiative that unites individuals and the local business community in making an immediate positive environmental impact by reducing their plastic waste and carbon footprint.

'The Big Swim' was the first human attempt to swim the entire Dubai coastline, which spans a distance of 85km from Sharjah to the Abu Dhabi border.

This distance almost equates to 3 crossings of the English Channel and was tackled in stages over successive weekends throughout October and November 2017.

Depending on the conditions and the stretch of coastline being covered, each swim lasted between 10 and 20km and took between 3 and 6 hours.

"Our aim with 'The Big Swim' is not only to achieve a personal athletic goal," said Kieran Ballard-Tremer.

"We needed to serve a bigger purpose, and we loved the work that the Drop it team had been doing, encouraging companies and individuals all over the UAE to switch to filtered tap water and reduce their overall single-use plastic consumption of bags, cups, straws and bottles," she added.

"If you swim regularly in the sea, you'll notice that single-use plastic pollution is affecting marine life on

an urgent and imminent level. An attitude change is necessary from each and every one of us to reduce and refuse single-use plastic consumption, and we hope our efforts to raise awareness through 'the Big Swim' will be noticed," said Kieran Ballard-Tremer.

More plastic was produced in the last 10 years than in the entirety of the last century.

At least 8 million tonnes of mishandled plastic waste washes into the world's oceans, rivers and lakes every year.

A recent report by Orb Media revealed that 83 percent of drinking water samples worldwide - tap or bottled - tested positive for microscopic plastic fibers.

Inaugural Clean Air Forum kicks-off in Abu Dhabi



Environment forum throws light on state of air quality in the UAE and the need to keep pollution down.

The region's first Clean Air Forum and Future Air Quality Technology Exhibition by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, and the Department of Economic Development - Abu Dhabi, ADDED, was opened on 10th December, 2017 by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

In its 'Abu Dhabi State of Environment Report 2017', EAD had observed that trends in sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions are consistent with increases in electricity production, water

desalination, motor vehicles and various industrial fuel combustion activities. Ozone is emitted from oil and gas activities, some industrial processes, petrol stations and transport, as well as from biogenic sources such as vegetation.

"Ambient air quality monitoring measurements indicate that these pollutants generally remain within national limits. Background levels of particulate matter remain high in the Abu Dhabi Emirate due to the arid nature of the region.

"Air pollution is the world's single

largest health risk according to the WHO and over 3.7 million deaths per annum are attributed to outdoor air pollution. It is therefore in all of our interests as global citizens to find workable solutions to tackle the problem of air pollution for the health and well-being of our people.

"We need to create a step-change in our ability to improve our environmental sustainability. This requires better monitoring of air quality, understanding of data, regulation of emitters and enforcement mechanisms. We need improved awareness and



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

AIR POLLUTION is the world's single largest health risk according to the WHO and over 3.7 million deaths per annum are attributed to outdoor air pollution.

understanding of the issues; new, better, innovative technologies and stronger public-private sector partnerships to bring about the changes that we must implement. Undoubtedly, this step-change will create numerous commercial opportunities to contribute to the Green Economy," said Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary-General of the EAD.

"Sustainability is a key pillar within UAE Vision 2021 and Abu Dhabi Plan. Bringing together federal and local authorities and experts from various industries and economic, environmental

and health pillars of society, the Forum highlights the latest research, techniques and methodologies to improve air quality, but I hope it will also be a catalyst for future collaboration and development," she continued.

In Abu Dhabi, the environment agency manages 20 ambient air quality monitoring stations and from 2014 these were linked with networks managed by ADWEA, ZonesCorp, ADNOC, Dubai Municipality and the National Center of Meteorology and Seismology to provide a more holistic coverage of Abu Dhabi

and the UAE. These stations monitor particulate matter - PM10, PM2.5 - as well as ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.

Khaleefa Salem Al Mansoori, Under-Secretary of ADDED, said, "In line with the UAE Vision 2021, we are collaborating closely with strategic government and private sector partners to improve the performance of the industrial sector and reduce the level and impact of air pollutants through legislation, regulations and policies, safeguarding the continued success of our nation."

Hybrids

56 creating green community

Toyota announces plans for popularization of electrified vehicles



Electrified vehicles to be available across the entire Toyota and Lexus line-up by around 2025; including 1 million zero-emission vehicles per year by 2030.

Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota) has announced its plans toward the popularization of electrified vehicles for the decade 2020-2030. Toyota's electrified vehicle strategy centers on a significant acceleration in the development and launch plans of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), battery electric vehicles (BEVs), and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs).

Addressing environmental challenges, such as global warming, air pollution, and limited natural resources and

energy supply are of utmost importance to Toyota. In 2015, Toyota launched the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050, which aims to reduce the negative impact of manufacturing and driving vehicles as much as possible and contribute to realizing a sustainable society.

Electrification across the entire Toyota and Lexus line-up

- By around 2030, Toyota aims to have sales of more than 5.5 million electrified vehicles, including more than 1 million zero-emission vehicles.

- Additionally, by around 2025, every model in the Toyota and Lexus line-up around the world will be available either as a dedicated electrified model or have an electrified option. This will be achieved by increasing the number of dedicated HEV, PHEV, BEV, and FCEV models. As a result, the number of models developed without an electrified version will be zero.

Zero-emission Vehicles

- Toyota will accelerate the popularization of BEVs with more than 10 BEV models to be available worldwide by the early



TOYOTA HAS been a leader in making vehicles while keeping the environment in mind.

2020s, starting in China, before entering other markets—the gradual introduction to Japan, India, United States and Europe is expected.

- The FCEV line-up will be expanded for both passenger and commercial vehicles in the 2020s.

Hybrid Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles

- The HEV line-up will also grow, thanks to the further development of the Toyota Hybrid System II (featured in the current-generation

Prius and other models); the introduction of a more powerful version in some models; and the development of simpler hybrid systems in select models, as appropriate, to meet various customer needs.

Batteries are a core technology of electrified vehicles and generally present limitations relating to energy density, weight/packaging, and cost. Toyota has been actively developing next-generation solid-state batteries. In addition, Toyota and Panasonic will start a feasibility study on a joint automotive prismatic battery

business in order to achieve the best automotive prismatic battery in the industry.

Furthermore, Toyota aims to focus on the development of a social infrastructure conducive to the widespread adoption of electrified vehicles. This includes the creation of a system to help streamline battery reuse and recycling, as well as support of the promotion of plug-in vehicle charging stations and hydrogen refueling stations through active cooperation and collaboration with government authorities and partner companies.

Hybrids

RTA starts trial run of region's first hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicle in Dubai Taxi fleet



The hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle has only water emissions; it is noiseless and can travel 500 km on a full tank.

Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority, RTA, has launched the trial run of the first electric hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicle, Toyota Mirai, as part of the Dubai Taxi fleet, in collaboration with Al Futtaim Motors.

The hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle has only water emissions. It is noiseless and can travel 500 km on a full tank, and refilling it takes not more than five minutes.

The emission-free Toyota Mirai

is powered by hydrogen, which generates electricity inside the engine after being mixed with oxygen supplied through the grill intake at the front of the vehicle.

The vehicle is characterised by high-level driving convenience and uses Toyota Fuel Cell System, TFCS, that combines the fuel-cell technology and the hybrid technology. It contains a fuel-cell stack and a high-pressure hydrogen tank.

“RTA attaches paramount importance to protecting the environment and saving power

consumption, and safety and environmental sustainability is a strategic goal of RTA. This experiment is in line with the nation-wide initiative launched by the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in 2012 themed, ‘Green Economy for Sustainable Development’.

“It also resonates the energy and low-carbon strategy of the Dubai government aimed at making Dubai a role model for efficient power consumption and low carbon



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

THE RTA has announced a plan to convert 50 percent of Dubai Taxicabs into hybrid vehicles by 2021.

emission,” said Al Tayer. Expressing his delight at the Dubai Taxi Corporation becoming the first taxi operator in the Middle East to deploy a hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicle (Mirai) in its fleet, he added, “RTA will start a trial run of the vehicle as part of its limousine service in the Dubai International Airport to assess the economic feasibility and environmental benefits of its operation besides verifying the efficiency of the engine, maintenance cost and other parameters.

“RTA was the first entity in the region to start the trial run of

hybrid (fuel and electricity) vehicles as part of its taxi fleet from 2008 to 2011. Results have proved the economic and environmental feasibility of the experiment by saving fuel consumption by 30 percent and reducing carbon emission by 30 percent as well.”

The RTA has announced a plan to convert 50 percent of Dubai Taxicabs into hybrid vehicles by 2021. The plan involves raising the number of hybrid taxis in Dubai from 791 in 2016 to 4,750 in 2021. The Dubai Taxi Corporation accounts for the largest share of

hybrid vehicles (2,280 vehicles), and the number of hybrid vehicles currently accounts for 20 percent of the fleet.



Launch

60 creating green community

Environment Ministry launches UAE Green Jobs Programme



Investment of one to two per cent of GDP per year in greening the economy would create up to 165,000 new jobs by 2030.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, has announced the launch of the UAE Green Jobs Programme at the first stakeholder workshop on the subject, convened at its headquarters in Dubai.

Nurturing talent and employment for the prospective green industry is considered one of the prerequisites for the successful transformation toward a green economy in any country. The UAE Green Agenda 2030, the action framework for the country's green economy transformation that

was approved by the Cabinet in 2015, dedicates one of its twelve programmes to the Green Jobs Programme.

In partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI, the ministry is starting the programme by taking stock of domestic policies and initiatives on environmental education and vocational training, as well as international best practices of fostering green jobs. Working with key authorities and stakeholders, the ministry aims to come up with the best policy approach to green jobs, along with concrete implementation

projects. The ministry will also work with statistics agencies to set a workable definition of green jobs and develop a methodology for estimating the current and future numbers of green jobs to assess the trend and predict future skill needs for informed decision-making.

Over 20 representatives from federal and local authorities including the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth, as well as international organisations such as the International Renewable



WORKING WITH KEY authorities and stakeholders, the Ministry aims to come up with the best policy approach to green jobs, along with concrete implementation projects.

Energy Agency, were invited to this launch event. A green jobs expert and MOCCA staff introduced the objectives of the programme, the international best practices, and the national context of promoting green jobs. This was followed by group discussions on how to take this programme forward.

The ministry's earlier scenario study indicates that investment of one to two per cent of GDP per year in greening the economy would create up to 165,000 new jobs by 2030. To leverage such a positive spillover, however, the

country needs a coordinated policy action to address the skill gaps between the current labour market and the future requirements for a green economy.

In her welcome note, Aisha Al Abdooli, Director of Green Development and Environmental Affairs at the Ministry, said, "The UAE has seen a rapid rise in the number of jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors in last few years thanks to the policies promoting investment in solar energy technologies and green buildings. Through a more co-ordinated effort, we should

be able to spread this trend into other sectors and multiply the job opportunities. We look forward to working with relevant authorities and stakeholders to actively support youth and future generations engaging in prospective green jobs."





Dubai Municipality joins global initiative to protect world's oceans

Dubai Municipality participated in the Global Conservation Coalition on 31st December 2017, for the launch of its worldwide ocean protection initiative called, "Our Big Blue Expedition."

The Coalition is comprised of several non-profit conservation organizations and several international organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and the Explorer's Club, an international, multi-disciplinary organization of professional scientists.

Our Big Blue Expedition offers sponsors and their guests an opportunity to get up-close and

personal to the incredible blue whale and participate in research and tagging activities in the Coral Triangle countries of Malaysia and Timor-Leste, in Southeast Asia. Each expedition on board a luxury charter yacht will be filmed and documented to showcase the blue whale and other endangered marine species for the world to see and discover.

According to Eng. Alya Al Harmoudi, Director of Environment Department at Dubai Municipality, "Dubai Municipality received the invitation to the event due to its pioneering position in protecting the ocean environment and raising awareness on it. We continue our efforts in conserving the Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary and coastal water in the Emirate of

Dubai, which hosts an exemplary biodiversity of unique coral species and marine fauna of international conservation status, such as the Dugong (Sea Cow) and Hawksbill Sea-turtle. The sanctuary was also declared as an Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Area (EBSA) by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2015."

Dubai Municipality delegation, led by Peter Farrington of the Environment Department, participated in the event. Al Harmoudi added that the Environment Department believes in the importance of conserving the marine environment as it is a major source of life on earth and that its conservation is a responsibility of all nations, governments and individuals alike.



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

New eco-friendly headquarters for UAE Environment Ministry

UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, has moved its headquarters from Abu Hail in Dubai to a new state-of-the-art building in Al Ruwayyah 2, on 13th December, 2017. The new eco-friendly headquarters has been designed using sustainable building materials and cutting-edge technologies to promote energy efficiency, in line with international environment safety standards and green building requirements.

Taif Mohammad Al Amiri, Director of Government Communication Department at MoCCA, said that some of the key characteristics of the green headquarters building are its modern architectural design, its adherence to best-in-class sustainability and green

building standards optimising energy use, ensuring ease of movement across different departments and sections, and reducing the ministry's environmental footprint.

“Designed to ensure efficient use of electricity, water, and air conditioning through leveraging eco-friendly building material including sun-insulating surfaces, the building seeks to improve the quality of the indoor and outdoor environment and in doing so preserves the health and safety of the environment as part of the Ministry's social commitment,” Al Amiri added. Energy-saving lighting is used to illuminate the entire building that features photo voltaic panels and is linked to the Dubai Electricity and Water

Authority grid to save 10 percent of the building's energy needs.

Global Energy Forum in Abu Dhabi

The Atlantic Council's second-annual Global Energy Forum will convene in Abu Dhabi on 12th and 13th January 2018. This premier gathering of government, industry, and thought leaders will set the global energy agenda for the year and anticipate and respond to dramatic changes in the world of energy. The 2018 forum will focus on three key themes - the geopolitics of energy transformation; the electrification of everything; and financing and governance mechanisms for the future energy mix. It will also highlight the vital role of women in the energy sector.

Launch

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

UAE launches e-service regulating trade of endangered fauna and flora



An e-service to regulate trade in endangered animals and plants has been launched by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA).

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, has launched an electronic service on its website to regulate domestic and international trade in endangered and threatened animals and plants covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES.

The country joined CITES under Federal Decree No. 86 of 1989 and issued Federal Law No. 11 of 2002 to enforce the application of the agreement. In line with the UAE's strategy to make all government

services available in an electronic and smart format, the new two-track service allows customers to complete all relevant procedures through the website without visiting the customer service offices of the Ministry.

The first track offers registration, licencing and issuance of passports for international trade in endangered animals and plants – covering import, export and re-export – in accordance with the terms of CITES. Meanwhile, the second track targets domestic trade by individuals and entities, including registration and

ownership change.

Muna Omran Al Shamsi, Acting Director of the Biodiversity Department at MOCCA, said, "The move aligns with the Ministry's drive to increase customer satisfaction and happiness through transforming all its services into e-services and mobile applications.

"The main objective of the service is to monitor and regulate trade in endangered and threatened species in line with CITES to avoid random abandonment by owners causing a proliferation of stray



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

IN THE UAE, 5,800 animals and 30,000 species of plants are currently endangered.

animals that may pose a risk to public health and safety.”

“The e-service website contains information about CITES and the full list of endangered and threatened animals and plants with the aim of educating the public about species that are prohibited to acquire without registration,” she added.

Al Shamsi noted that the new service replaces the previous CITES website run by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, which handled the registration of falcons, issuance

of passports, and procedures for import, export and re-export.

“Every member of the community is responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of CITES. Buyers should verify the availability of the required certificates when purchasing any of the animals or plants listed in the agreement, or their parts and derivatives.

“They also need to obtain the necessary import certificates, and register the sale and transfer of ownership. Establishments engaging in trade in endangered

species should be registered with MOCCA, and ensure that the animals or plants are free from any diseases with the assistance of the concerned authorities,” she explained.

Federal Law No. 11 of 2002 concerning regulating and controlling the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora sets out penalties for the violation of its provisions, including imprisonment for up to six months and fines up to AED50,000, in addition to confiscation of the illegally traded or held specimens.



Green Flash



Talk to Relatives & Friends About Climate Change

People who do not know about climate change or do not understand how it happens may be reluctant to ask you, even if they are family members, relatives or friends. They may even sincerely believe that fighting climate change would harm the economy. Others may be alarmed by climate change and want to know what they can do about it.

It is important to talk about climate change if you want the people around you to share your concerns. If nobody is talking about it, we wouldn't know what other people think. Some people may not be convinced about climate change, but at the interpersonal level, hearts and minds can change at an amicable gathering and changes do matter as we talk to more people.

Further, with the spread of unprecedented environmental disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, drought and wildfires, there is plenty of opportunity to talk to individuals & communities about the real danger of climate change and pollution. Scientists can now determine with a high degree of certainty how likely these disasters occur with rising temperatures. The impact is even greater when you mention personal experiences and suffering associated with a certain disaster as people become really helpless while watching the destruction and loss of lives.

Combating climate change means putting an end to global warming which indicates the end of the fossil fuel era and the development of renewable energy sources to compensate. You can talk about the hope that renewable energy brings in saving the planet. Solar energy, for example, is developing really fast. The cost of installing a solar system in the US has dropped by more than 70% since 2010. It is on track to become the cheapest source of power worldwide without any subsidy. Solar and wind energy are outcompeting even the most efficient new gas plants in Texas. Moreover, renewable energy is creating jobs much faster than the rest of the economy in the US. China, the highest in GHG emissions, is working hard to dominate the new energy economy and in spite of the set back in the US, clean energy is still progressing fast in states and cities. Currently, we are witnessing an energy revolution that can secure the future if we force progress fast enough.

The climate fight is fundamentally different from social issues, but progress is similarly dependent on a transformative shift in public opinion. Mass media are not doing enough to enlighten people and put pressure on officials around the world to save the planet. There are too many journalists in sports, arts & traditional economy but very few specialize in environment and health which are getting more challenging every year. Environmental education is also still far from being satisfactory. Both education and mass media communication are lagging far behind and need to take real leaps forward in order to achieve public awareness and change of attitude & life styles to be more sustainable & environment friendly.

Let us join hands in the "YEAR OF ZAYED" to fill this gap.

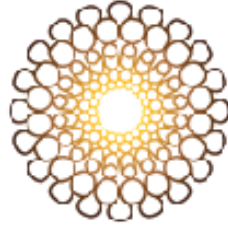
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif
Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



Zayed International Prize for the Environment



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