

March 2018

Society & Environment

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



إكسبو 2020
معرض الإمارات
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Issue 131

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

Unity, peace, tolerance, progress and prosperity – all the epithets used today to describe the miraculous growth of the United Arab Emirates over the past 46 years have stemmed from the visionary ideas of an exceptional leader who painstakingly built a country as a model nation in human and institutional development.

The unveiling of the Founder's Memorial in the UAE capital is a tribute to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan whose birth centenary we celebrate this year. Using the wisdom of the past, he dreamt of a progressive future for the UAE and consolidating the values of tradition and modernity, he moulded a young nation for more than three decades to ensure the stability and happiness of UAE society.

Sheikh Zayed was a symbol of phenomenal leadership. His stellar qualities of humility, open mindedness, tolerance and acceptance of others, strategic thinking, and ability to lead people have made him an inspirational leader both within the UAE and globally. His exemplary message of solidarity and his environmental stewardship in transforming a desert kingdom into a modern nation with sustainability at its heart are some of the enduring gifts of his legacy.

As a leader who has given his people so much, the UAE, as a nation, owes a great responsibility to ensure that this legacy is carried forward so that current and future generations can imbibe the noble values and principles that he upheld.

The Founder's Memorial breathes life into the image of the nation's Founding Father, and encapsulates the valuable legacy he left behind that touched every aspect of life of the UAE people. As the leader who laid the foundations of the nation, this memorial will certainly inspire all those who view it to gain a deeper understanding of the values he stood for and ensure that this beloved President of the UAE can never be forgotten.

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From the **Managing Editor**



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

“A drop of water in the desert equals a beating pulse.”
- *Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

The environmental conscience of the UAE has stemmed from the pioneering efforts of one individual's enduring quest to transform his beloved nation into a green haven – our Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan who placed sustainability at the heart of the nation's growth strategy.

As we celebrate World Water Day on March 22 under the theme, 'Nature for Water', we are grateful that the pivotal actions taken by Sheikh Zayed as early as the 1940s has enabled the UAE to pave the path towards a water-secure and sustainable future.

Sheikh Zayed considered water to be the UAE's most precious natural resource and constantly looked at ways of enhancing the country's ground water reserves while also encouraging finding new solutions to conserve water. As early as 1946, he launched a pioneering water resources management project in Al Ain using the traditional 'aflaj' or underground canal system of irrigation.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 commits the world to ensuring that everyone has access to safe water by 2030. In the UAE, the principles of conservation and sustainability that Sheikh Zayed propagated continue to be followed by our leaders. The UAE Vision 2021 has highlighted water scarcity as a key performance indicator for sustainability while the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 unveiled last year aims to ensure sustainable water supply and increase water productivity.

Today, the UAE is globally recognised as a responsible leader for its commitment to solve the challenges of water conservation, management and security. We are proud to belong to the era of Sheikh Zayed and to have inherited this legacy bequeathed by him. So let us now take forward Sheikh Zayed's vision of conservation not only in the UAE but also in parts of the world confronting water challenges.

- 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



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UAE leaders unveil Founder's Memorial

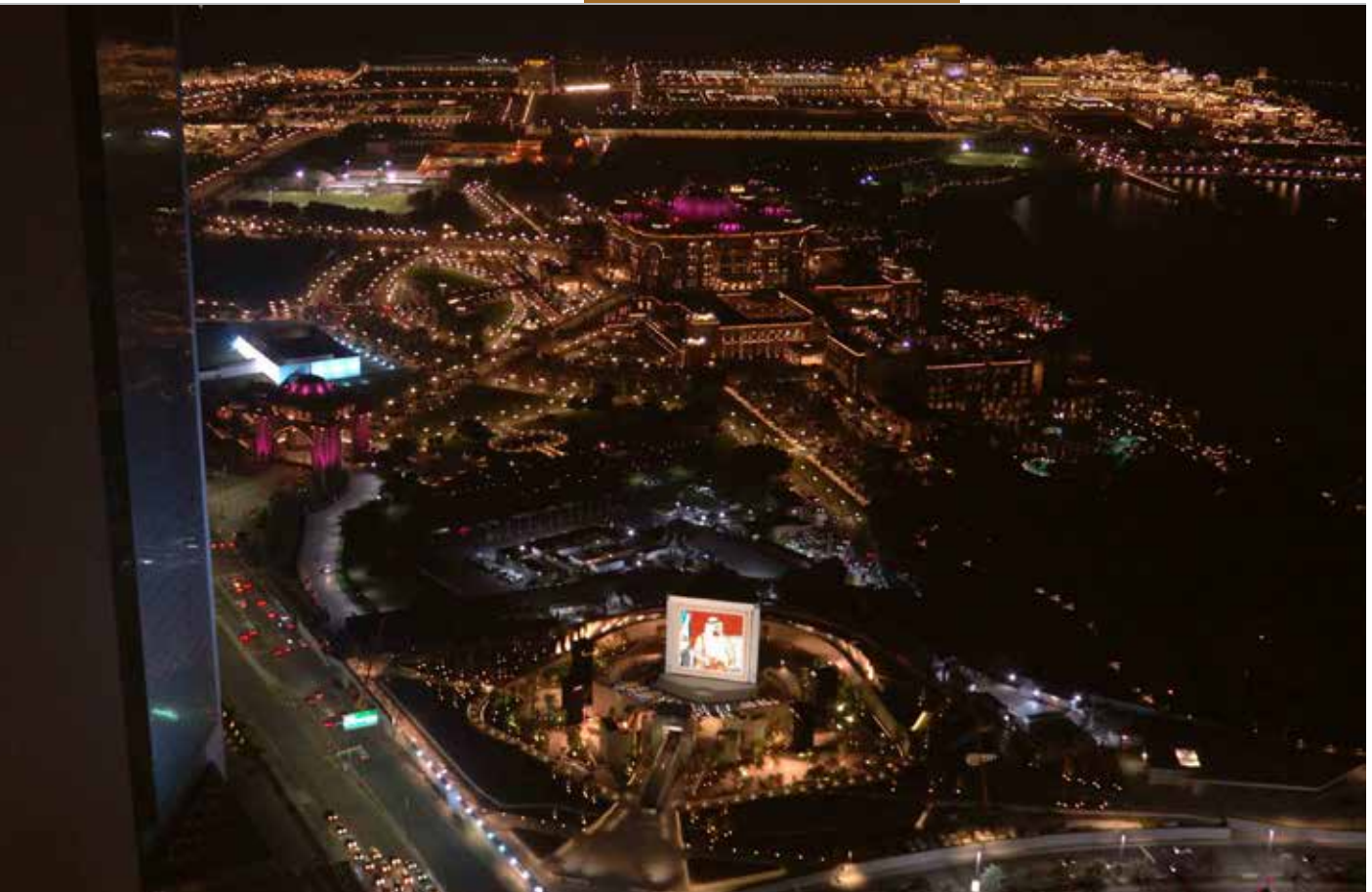
The Founder's Memorial, a permanent national tribute commemorating the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, opens to the public in Spring 2018 and will offer visitors a range of personal encounters with the late Sheikh Zayed as a man and a leader, enabling people to gain a deeper understanding of his life, legacy and values.

The Founder's Memorial, a permanent national tribute commemorating the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, was inaugurated in an official ceremony on 26th February, 2018 under the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai; His Highness

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah; H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain, and H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah.

Other VIP dignitaries attending the inauguration included H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council; H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance; H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Salem bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council; H.H. Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al





THE FOUNDER'S Memorial inauguration coincides with the national Year of Zayed initiative, declared by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed to mark 100 years since the birth of Sheikh Zayed.

Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman; H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras al-Khaimah; and H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Ruler`s Representative in Al Ain Region. Several other sheikhs, companions and close friends of the late Sheikh Zayed also attended the event.

The Founder's Memorial inauguration, through the unveiling of 'The Constellation', the monumental artwork that forms its centrepiece, coincides with the national Year of Zayed initiative,

declared by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed to mark 100 years since the birth of Sheikh Zayed.

Located at the heart of The Founder's Memorial, the monumental artwork by public artist Ralph Helmick depicts a dynamic three-dimensional portrait of Sheikh Zayed, and can be experienced differently from multiple viewing points around the memorial and from other vantage points, offering a series of infinitely evolving personal encounters with his image.

The Constellation is made up

of more than 1,300 geometric shapes suspended on more than 1,000 cables. At night, these shapes shine like stars, evoking the timelessness of Sheikh Zayed's vision as a guiding light for the UAE people.

A moving tribute to Sheikh Zayed, the man and the leader, the 30-minute ceremony created an atmosphere of great pride and joy.

The ceremony took place in the presence of members of the UAE's royal families, ministers, dignitaries and VIPs, who gathered at the site on the Abu



Dhabi Corniche in celebration of UAE's Founding Father and his vast influence on his country and the wider world, while members of the public across the country and the region watched the poignant occasion on TV and online. It included a performance featuring a 40-strong choir performing Allah Ya Dar Zayed, as well as beautiful new arrangements of other traditional songs and music, and a touching compilation of Sheikh Zayed's performances of the traditional Ayala dance.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said that the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed would remain in the hearts and minds of the sons of this nation. He added that Sheikh Zayed wanted the

country to have a pioneering role among the nations of the world and to remain strong. He went on to say that the leadership's unwavering goal has been the happiness of its people.

"Zayed's legacy will remain a never-ending source of wisdom from which future generations draw inspiration as well as lessons of patriotism and dedication. The Founder's Memorial will continue to testify to the achievements of the founding leader and the sacrifices he made. His legacy is filled with stories of loyalty to the homeland, and it places a responsibility on us and on future generations to safeguard the gains and build on the success stories so that our homeland

remains a symbol of dignity and development," Sheikh Mohammed said.

"Today, my brother Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, our brothers the UAE Rulers, and I inaugurated the Founder's Memorial," Sheikh Mohammed continued. "It is an important message that links future generations to the memory of the leader who laid the foundations of the nation. It is a message that the youth must absorb and work to achieve in various sectors to continue the process initiated by Zayed and the UAE's Founders and to build the future of a country that wants its citizens always to excel."

His Highness the UAE Vice

“Zayed’s legacy will remain a never-ending source of wisdom from which future generations draw inspiration as well as lessons of patriotism and dedication.”

- HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



President added that it was fitting to have a memorial for the Founding Father, saying that Sheikh Zayed had a special place not only in the hearts of Emiratis but all those who had benefited from his generosity.

“When we mention giving, we have to mention Zayed. His name will forever be associated with generosity and humane leadership in the annals of history. Zayed sought to spread good across the world and make the Emirates a beacon of hope and optimism, and overcome all obstacles. Today, the sons of Zayed follow the same approach to make the UAE the wellspring of good for people and a source of happiness with tolerance, harmony and peace.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said Sheikh Zayed’s vision would continue to guide the UAE and the wider region. “The Founding Father would continue to inspire current and future generations with his humanity, leadership and wisdom,” he added.

He said that the Founder’s Memorial would help people understand how the happiness of his countrymen was Sheikh Zayed’s only goal. “He instilled the values of hard work, giving and dedication in his people, inspiring them to take the country to new heights,” he said. “We proudly unveil the Founder’s Memorial to celebrate Sheikh Zayed’s legacy and achievements,” he continued

adding that the Founding Father was unmatched in his humanity, wisdom and leadership. “He founded a state, built a nation and personally shaped a civilisation.”

His Highness the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince said that those who knew Sheikh Zayed recognised his greatness, nobility and uniqueness. “His approach was based on ethics, his message was peace, love and tolerance, and his goal was building good citizens. We will continue to cherish this great leader’s legacy and follow his principles in our lives.”

“The nation Sheikh Zayed built would continue to be counted among the greatest and most respected worldwide thanks



to the efforts of its sons and daughters. Our connection with Zayed," Sheikh Mohamed said, "was that of a father to his son, a leader to his people and a man to his homeland. It is a close connection, an extension of the love of the founder of our Union, which has grown over the years. We pride ourselves on this love and hand it down to future generations," he went on. "Our youth today demonstrate their loyalty to Sheikh Zayed by eagerly acquiring more knowledge, displaying a commitment to ethics and humanity, and devoting their efforts to nation-building and preserving the gains of the past," Sheikh Mohamed added.

"We are grateful to the founding

father, who made a difference in our lives and made the UAE achieve international recognition. He will always have a special place in the heart of every Emirati and those who love the UAE," Sheikh Mohamed concluded.

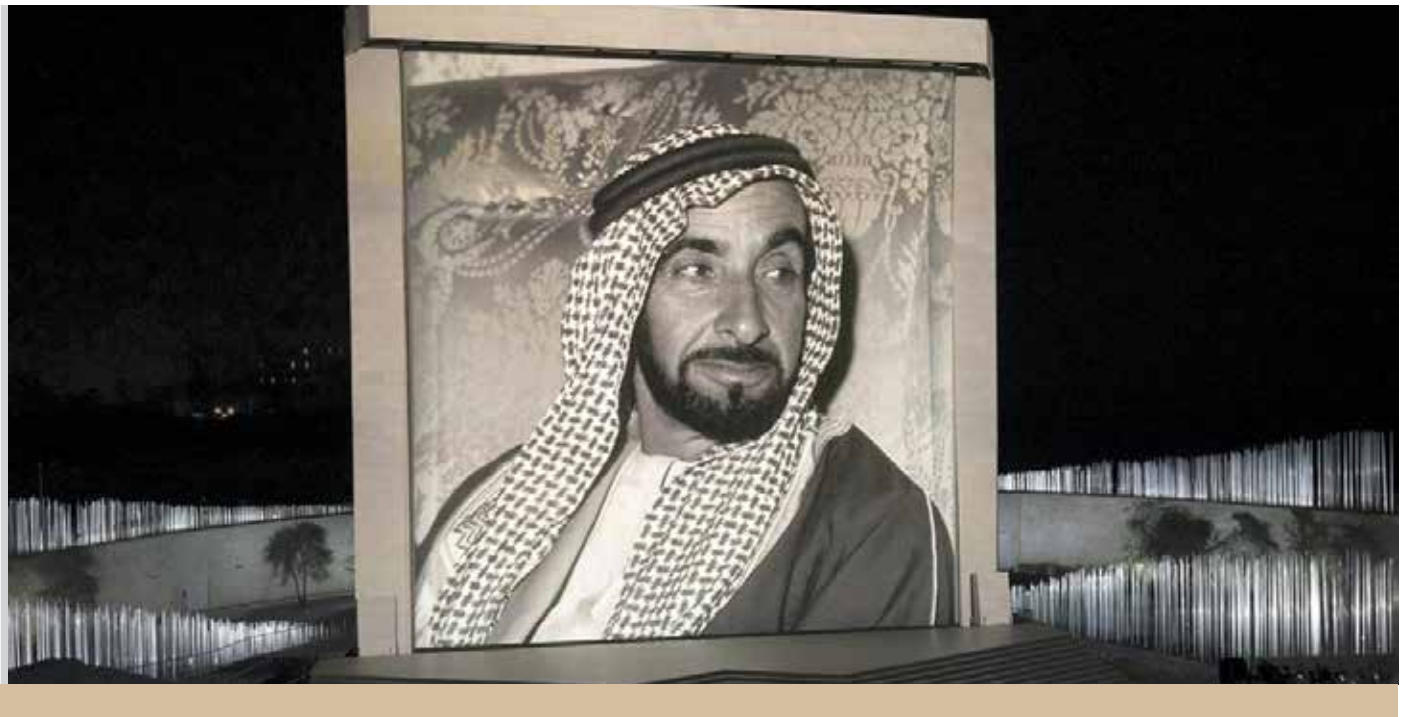
The Rulers of the UAE also expressed great pride in the national, humanitarian and civilisational legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed. The glittering legacy can be glimpsed in the UAE's impressive development and its proud record. The people of the UAE and its leadership remain proud of the founder of the Union and will embrace his love, generation after generation.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al

Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of the Higher National Committee for the Year of Zayed, said, "Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan's legacy is clear to the people of the UAE and the world through his timeless cultural and humanitarian achievements. His character is a model for us all in terms of behaviour, work, leadership and thought. The Founder's Memorial serves as a beacon that will guide future generations, shedding light on the founding father of the UAE, his outstanding ideas that preceded his time, and the dreams he realised through his patience and hard work.

He stressed the continuation of Sheikh Zayed's approach and

A place to learn about Sheikh Zayed through art, landscape, words, stories and multimedia experiences, the Founder's Memorial will offer visitors a range of personal encounters with the late Sheikh Zayed as a man and a leader, enabling people to gain a deeper understanding of his life, legacy and values.



the importance of preserving his principles and achievements, together with the noble values he has inspired in the hearts of the citizens and residents of the UAE.

Set against the backdrop of the landscape of The Founder's Memorial beyond, the cinematic event traced the late leader's life and legacy, honouring his tireless efforts in building a strong and sustainable nation, and celebrating his memory as a man of the people and a global figure remembered for his wisdom and respect for others.

As if told by Sheikh Zayed himself, the story unfolded through his voice, through his actions – depicted in rarely-

seen footage and imagery – and through people whose lives he touched, including Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, Sheikh Zayed bin Hamad bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Ali bin Salem Al Kaabi; Major-General Hamad bin Suhail Al Khaili; Mubarak bin Qaran Al Mansoori, and ZakiNusseibeh, Minister of State.

When the Founder's Memorial opens to the public in Spring 2018, it will include a dynamic, informative and inspirational visitor experience.

A place to learn about Sheikh Zayed through art, landscape, words, stories and multimedia experiences. The Founder's Memorial will offer visitors a

range of personal encounters with the late Sheikh Zayed as a man and a leader, enabling people to gain a deeper understanding of his life, legacy and values.

The site will open up 3.3 hectares of pristine public space to the UAE community for walking and quiet reflection, featuring landscaped areas planted with trees and shrubs indigenous to the UAE and the Arabian Peninsula, and an elevated walkway that will offer captivating views of The Constellation, The Corniche and the Abu Dhabi skyline.

The Ministry of Presidential Affairs is the official authority that owns and supervises the Founder's Memorial.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid opens 'Museum of the Future'



The Museum of the Future is a unique initiative by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum that explores the future of science, technology and innovation.

“The Museum of the Future will be an incubator for ideas, a driver for innovation, and a destination for inventors and entrepreneurs from around the world.”

- HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

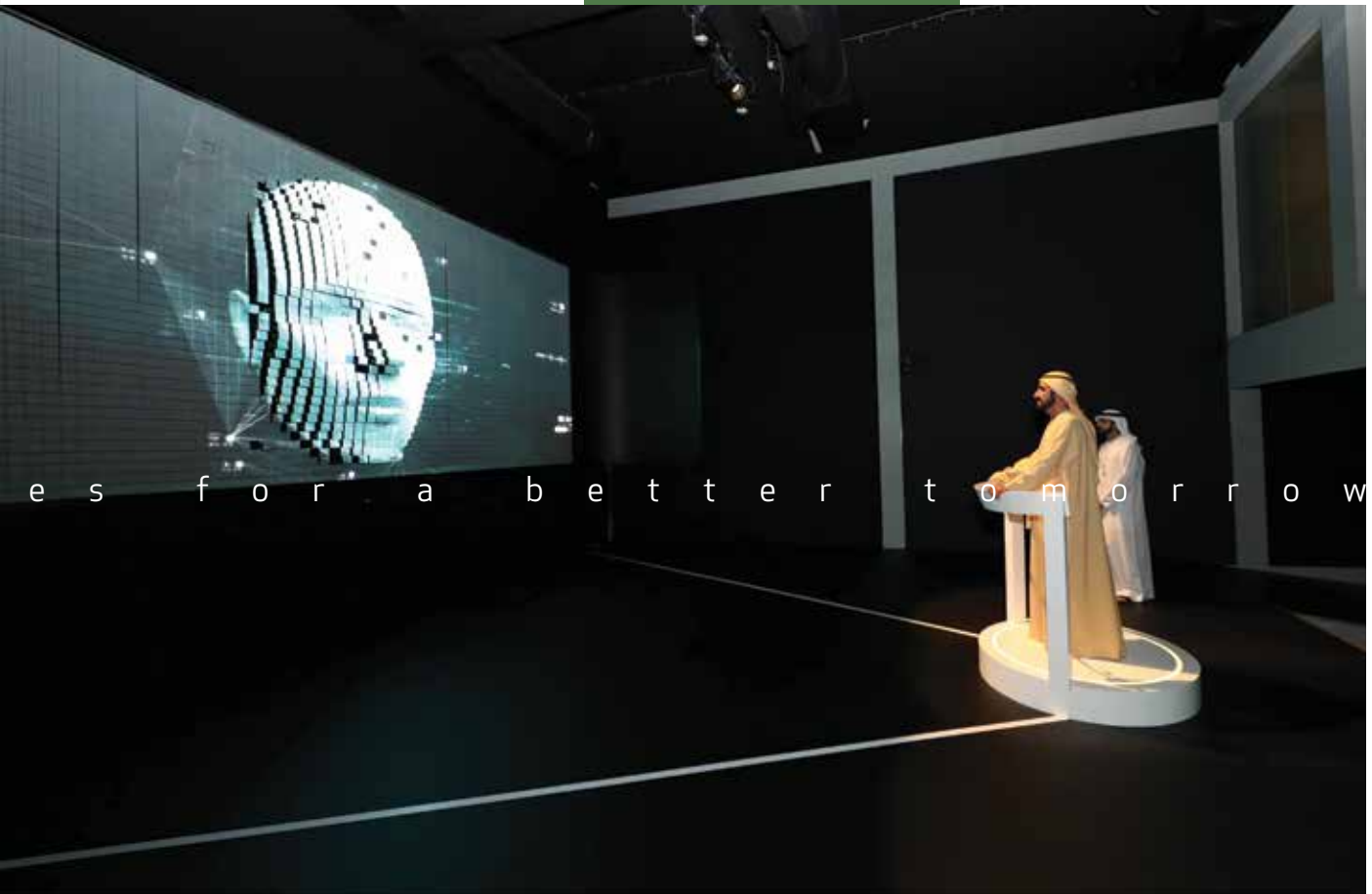
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum opened the new temporary 'Museum of the Future' on 9th February as part of the 2018 World Government Summit held from 11-13 February at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai.

The museum offered visitors an interactive experience about the future of artificial intelligence (AI) and how it will affect different aspects of life in the future, offering an exciting way to discover tomorrow's trends and

opportunities.

Accompanying His Highness Sheikh Mohammed on his tour were Dubai Crown Prince H.H. Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future and Chairman of the World Government Summit Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, and Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Omar bin Sultan Al Olama.

Sheikh Mohammed highlighted



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THE MUSEUM of the Future focuses on shaping the future of robotics and artificial intelligence and their impact on human life.

the fact that artificial intelligence (AI) will add US\$15 trillion to the world's GDP within a period of 12 years, and said, "The Museum of the Future is a unique incubator for futuristic innovations and design. We are determined to make the UAE a major contributor to future development."

"The UAE government sets an example to the governments of the world in adopting technological advancements as a driver for development. AI is key when we speak about tackling future challenges," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Organised by the Dubai Future Foundation as part of the World Government Summit, the Museum focuses on shaping the future of robotics and artificial intelligence and their impact on human life. It also offers a unique interactive experience to visitors by attempting to explore the future of this sector.

"See the Future, Create the Future"

The Museum of the Future is a unique incubator for futuristic innovations and design, currently under construction in Dubai, UAE. It builds on over 5 years

of immersive exploration of the future by the Dubai Future Foundation, the organization behind everything from the world's first 3D printed office to the Dubai Blockchain Strategy.

Opening in 2019, the Museum will become the world's largest and most exciting way to discover tomorrow's trends and opportunities.

"The world is entering a new era of accelerated knowledge and great technological revolutions. The future belongs to those who can imagine it, design it, and execute



it. The Museum will become the first major facility in the world dedicated to the trends and technologies of tomorrow, combined with supporting services to help people make their vision a reality," he said.

In addition to acting as a center for visitors to interact with world of tomorrow, it will have a major event space, theatre, and partnership labs with the most exciting brands helping to shape the 21st century. Along with the other work of the Dubai Future Foundation, it will offer a platform to demonstrate and test the latest inventions and prototypes.

The Museum of the Future will open in late 2019.

Future Technologies

The Museum has three underlying themes. Firstly, it addresses how robots and artificial intelligence improve human mental and physical capabilities. The Museum offers a glimpse into NewKnees that give their users superhuman abilities to run and jump.

Secondly, the Museum focuses on the relation between humans and robots, looking for answers to questions like: 'How does it feel to have robots care for the elderly, and will the relation between robots and humans develop to become similar to inter-human relations?'

The third theme showcases how the development of artificial

intelligence technologies will affect the management and decision making processes. It seeks to answer questions on how confident we are when it comes to letting artificial intelligence systems manage our own money and select our own careers.





UAE launches new project to bridge the climate-humanitarian nexus

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) launched 'The Climate Project', which aims at delivering climate initiatives that touch the lives of 10,000,000 people by 2020.

The MOCCA-MoFAIC joint ventures, which was launched at the end of the first day of the World Government Summit (WGS) held in February 2018, will be a two-year effort to bridge the climate-humanitarian nexus by studying climate adaptation innovations and projects, raising awareness, and supporting communities to increase their climate resilience. With

the aim of delivering climate initiatives that touch the lives of 10,000,000 people by 2020, the Project will carry out its work under three main pillars: Gender and Youth, Extreme Weather Events, and Sustainable Solutions.

During its successful participation at the WGS, MOCCA held the Climate Change Forum – Climate Action Now, which saw the launch of The Climate Project. The forum comprised of three panel sessions and kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, exploring how climate change is merging with humanitarian crises and

impacting global peace and prosperity. Dr. Al-Zeyoudi outlined possible scenarios of the future, in the light of ongoing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The first panel session was entitled "Women and Youth: The Catalyst to Solve Global Challenges" and focused on how women and youth can be leveraged as powerful agents of change. The second panel session was entitled "Climate Change: A Threat Multiplier" and discussed climate change as a key factor in global conflict and insecurity.

The third session, "Rising Tides: Preparing for the New Normal", explored the impacts of the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean.

Zayed Foundation

16 c r e a t i n g

g r e e n c o m m u n i t y

Zayed Foundation unveils Zayed Smart Platform at Al Falah University



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment launches Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform at Al Falah University to fulfil the objectives of the 2018 Year of Zayed initiative.

In conjunction with UAE Innovation Month, celebrated across the UAE in February under the slogan "Innovation Starts with You", and in line with the 2018 Year of Zayed initiative launched by President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to commemorate the 100th birth centenary of the Founding Father, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment inaugurated the Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform at Al Falah University in Dubai.

The Smart Platform was inaugurated by Dr. Mesharraf

Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, in the presence of Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment; Prof. Abdelhafid Belarbi, AFU President; and faculty, academic staff and students of the Al Falah University.

The Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform is a knowledge platform that gives greater insight into Sheikh Zayed's green march, which began in Abu Dhabi's Al Ain Eastern Province in 1946, long

before the terms 'sustainability' or 'environment conservation' acquired the significance it does today.

Reflecting the UAE's long-standing efforts to protect, nurture and develop the environment, the Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform is an innovative knowledge and education smart platform with entertainment tools that seeks to raise environmental awareness in an educative and entertaining manner. It also aims to instill a culture of sustainability, develop new frameworks and



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THE ZAYED Green Challenge smart app has several value-added features including prize-winning competitions and the smart app selects 3 winners monthly.

ideas for achieving sustainable development and promote lifelong learning for all ages and cross-sections of society to enable them to respond positively to pressing environmental challenges.

The Zayed Green Challenge smart app has several value-added features including prize-winning competitions and the smart app selects 3 winners monthly. Winners will be rewarded with cash prizes. This smart app is available on both iOS & Android platforms. Addressing the students and staff of Al Falah University, Dr Meshgan Al Awar

said, “The late Sheikh Zayed, Mercy be on His Soul, was not only a great and compassionate leader, but also a champion of the environment who laid the foundations of this nation by integrating the principles of sustainable development into its policies and programmes. It is thanks to his environmental stewardship that the UAE today continues to follow in his footsteps and is committed to the principles of sustainable development as envisioned by the Founding Father of the UAE.

“The Zayed International Prize

for the Environment, launched almost two decades ago by Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is honoured to bear the name of this leader who dedicated his life to environmental protection and sustainable development,” she added.

Dr. Al Awar praised the partnership between Zayed Foundation and Al Falah University, as well as the environmental and academic cooperation between them, which aims at preserving the



environment and spreading environmental awareness among university students and all sectors of society. "Knowledge and innovation play an important role in shaping a sustainable future and the Zayed Smart Platform is an educational initiative to spread knowledge and environmental awareness for all age groups, using smart applications and interactive tools through social media," she told the university students.

In his address to the student community, Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif - in a lecture titled 'Zayed's Environmental Heritage' emphasized how the environmental stewardship of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan continues to shape the

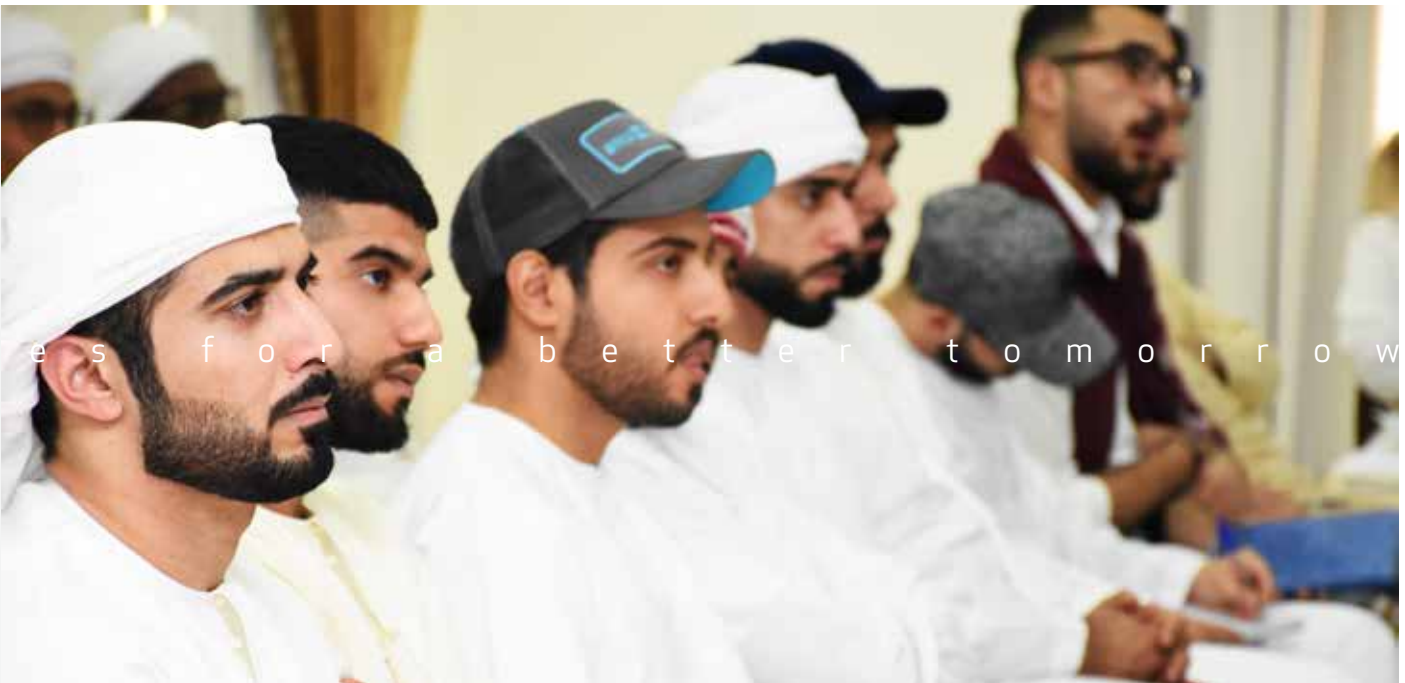
development of the UAE, guiding it to greater heights while inspiring sustainability initiatives locally, regionally and globally.

"The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was created in honour of the legacy and vision of the UAE's founding father and seeks to spread Sheikh Zayed's green ideology by highlighting the importance of empowering the youth and getting the community involved towards achieving these goals," he said. "The main frameworks within which the Zayed Foundation operates include recognizing environmental excellence through awards; exchange of ideas and experiences to provide scientific knowledge

through conferences, symposia and workshops; dissemination of scientific information and environmental culture through periodic publications."



The Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform is an innovative knowledge and education smart platform with entertainment tools that seeks to raise environmental awareness in an educative and entertaining manner.



The awards instituted by the Zayed Foundation include the biennial Zayed International Prize for the Environment and the annual Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment, and also competition prizes such as the Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform, he elaborated.

Prof. Abdelhafid Belarbi, President of Al Falah University, praised the concept of the innovative smart application. "The Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform will contribute to the promotion of environmental awareness among university students because of its ease

of use and highly innovative features," he said. "The smart application is an enlightening tool to know more about Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's environmental vision and initiatives that has had a lasting impact on societies and communities across the globe."

"Since its establishment in 1999 by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Foundation has held dozens of international, regional and local conferences in cooperation with international environmental organizations and local authorities. In addition, the Zayed Foundation publishes the Society & Environment magazine, in both English and Arabic, every month," he added.



Year of Zayed

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

Year of Zayed Higher Committee approves plan of action

The committee is tasked with giving prominence to the significant role played by Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the UAE's progress, commemorating his legacy, achievements, and highlighting his standing among Emiratis.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, chaired the first meeting of the Higher Committee for the Year of Zayed 2018 at the Presidential Palace on Sunday, 18th February, 2018.

The meeting reviewed the plan of action and other activities that have taken place since the national initiative was launched in January 2018. Those at the meeting approved a series of programmes and strategies that underscore the exceptional standing of the late founding

father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his central role and significant efforts in building the UAE federation and state, as well as his prominent local and international achievements.

Sheikh Mansour stated that the convening of this meeting comes in line with the announcement of President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan dedicating 2018 as the Year of Zayed, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founding father, his far-sighted vision and leadership, as well as to highlight his remarkable achievements, rich values and his

inspirational character.

Sheikh Mansour said the committee is playing an important role in laying down a solid foundation, through which initiatives will be launched with a stronger momentum.

"The committee is very pleased with the enthusiastic and positive response to the Year of Zayed initiative, noting the support shown by both firms and individuals within the UAE and abroad for its objectives, which seek to elevate the stature of the founding father,





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THE MEETING reviewed the plan of action and other activities that have taken place since the national initiative was launched in January 2018.

locally and globally, as a symbol of patriotism, along with immortalising his legacy through projects and initiatives that promote his vision and values,” he added.

The Year of Zayed centres on four main themes inspired by his legacy: wisdom, respect, sustainability, and the building of human capacity.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and The Future; Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs; Nourabint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development; Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, along with other members of the committee.

UK embassy plants ‘Zayed Tree’

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, together with the British Ambassador to the UAE, planted a tree on 20th February, 2018 in the grounds of the British Embassy in Abu Dhabi to commemorate the Year of Zayed.

Planted in the garden of the Ambassador’s Residence, the Ghaf tree, the national tree of the UAE, is a celebration and a reminder of the leading role that the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan played in greening the UAE and seeking environmental sustainability. The plaque which stands in front of the tree includes a fitting quote from the late Sheikh Zayed, which reads, “They used to say that agriculture has no future [in the UAE], but with God’s blessing and our determination, we have succeeded in transforming this desert into a green land.”

Launch

22 creating green community

Sheikh Zayed Book Award launches translation initiative



The winners of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award could see their titles translated into English, French and German.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award has announced the launch of a translation initiative, in cooperation with the Frankfurt Book Fair New York branch, to provide support to publishing houses in translating the award's winning titles into English, French and German. The initiative comes as part of the action plan in response to recommendations from the Translators' Seminar held in London last year, to provide support and awareness about Arab authors and literary works.

Regarding the initiative, Saif Saeed Ghobash, Director-General

of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, said, "This year is witnessing the 12th edition of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, marking more than a decade of hard work and efforts that have laid the foundation for a cultural and literary landmark that seeks to celebrate creative literary scholars and intellectuals. As part of the department's initiatives that celebrate the Year of Zayed, I am delighted to be taking part today in signalling another big step along the march of excellence a strategic partnership with the Frankfurt Book Fair Office in New York.

"This partnership is aimed at encouraging translations from Arabic into other languages and spreading Arab culture in the West, thus strengthening the position of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award among international awards, as an incubator of Arab culture and a promoter of dialogue among civilisations."

Dr. Ali Bin Tamim, Secretary-General of the Award, noted, "The partnership of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award with the Frankfurt Book Fair stems from our overarching vision to consistently support the constructive cultural



A DEAL signed with the prestigious Frankfurt Book Fair will encourage publishing houses to translate more of the winning works of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award.

communication between Arabic and other languages, as well as to continue bolstering developing translation activities within the Arab world. Representing the cherished values of the award's mission during the Year of Zayed, this collaboration signifies the endeavours towards enriching cultures and arts, combining tradition and modernity, encouraging cultural openness, diversity, and acceptance of the other."

Juergen Boos, President of the Frankfurt Book Fair, added, "The award's objectives, combined

with our endeavours, have led to the crystallisation of this strategic partnership, which aims to assist in the translation of the winning titles into German, English and French. This helps raise awareness internationally regarding the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, in addition to promoting the award's work and winners at cultural and literary international events, such as the Frankfurt Book Fair."

An office for the Sheikh Zayed Book Award will also be established at Frankfurt Book Fair, raising awareness of Abu Dhabi's

cultural initiatives and promoting the award at a global level.

2018 is the Year of Zayed and the award is now in its 12th year. The awards presented are worth Dh7 million annually and a short list for this year's prize will be announced in the forthcoming weeks.



Launch

24 creating green community

UAE launches Zayed World Humanitarian Renewable Energy Initiative



The initiative, launched by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is a joint partnership between Emirates Red Crescent and the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, launched the Zayed World Humanitarian Renewable Energy Initiative, Al Hayat, on 20th February, 2018 as part of the ERC's programmes for the Year of Zayed 2018.

Sheikh Hamdan said that the initiative a joint partnership between the ERC and the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar comes within the UAE's efforts, led by President His

Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and with the support of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE 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, to tackle challenges posed by climate change and mitigate the impact of global warming by deployment of renewable and clean-energy sources.

"The UAE is always seeking

to find creative solutions to address negative phenomena that threaten life on planet Earth and create favourable conditions for a decent living," Sheikh Hamdan said, stressing that the initiative will entrench the UAE's position as a world leader in the renewable energy sector. The UAE is one of the most advanced nations in the world for the production of concentrated solar power energy and has made significant progress in this vital sector. He cited the Shams Solar Power Station in Abu Dhabi as a role model for advanced solar power technologies.



THE ZAYED World Humanitarian Renewable Energy Initiative will entrench the UAE's position as a world leader in the renewable energy sector.

Sheikh Hamdan stated that the renewable energy initiative aims to support human development with the provision of cost-effective clean energy in poor communities, which are suffering from an acute shortage of basic services.

“The initiative will fund and develop sustainable solutions in developing nations, particularly in electricity, water, agriculture and irrigation, so as to stimulate the growth of these economies and improve the living conditions of the underprivileged targeted by the ERC’s humanitarian

programmes,” he added.

He further noted that the initiative will advance the ERC’s strategy for sustained giving and adopt programmes that improve services, realise sustainable development in the Least Developed Countries, LDCs, and stimulate socio-economic growth, which will contribute to reducing the unemployment rate and achieving financial, social and psychological stability.

The initiative will help developing countries, needy communities and disaster-struck countries

to obtain sustained supplies of electricity and clean energy as well as drinking and irrigation water. It will assist in introducing innovative farming solutions to increase food security, reduce poverty and hunger, and create job opportunities.

Masdar is a world leading developer and operator of renewable energy projects and has launched successful concentrating solar power (CSP) projects in many LDCs including Afghanistan, Mauritania, Seychelles and Pacific Ocean states.

Opinion

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

“Our ancestors looked after nature instinctively and consistently”



To honour the Year of Zayed, **Ali Saqr Sultan Al Suweidi, Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF (EWS-WWF)**, and an explorer and leading environmentalist in his own right, gives an account of the early Emirati’s relationship with nature, outlining how they lived in harmony with the environmental resources that abounded... decades and centuries ago.

In the Year of Zayed, we have many reasons to celebrate the values of our nation’s founding father and the great importance the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan placed on the environment—intuitively giving nature the appreciation and attention it surely deserves.

Our ancestors had forged deep relations with nature and lived in harmony with the environmental resources that abounded... decades and centuries ago. They preserved their environment

instinctively and consistently. Every aspect of their lives naturally protected nature and all the resources that came with it. This was, to a great extent, due to the nobility of their character and respect for God’s many gifts.

Below, I examine our ancestors’ physical habitats and lifestyle as told in the stories passed down through the generations; their astronomical measurement system, agriculture and farming practices, sources of food and water— including preparation and

conservation— as well as animal care.

Habitat: The early Emiratis built their houses completely out of arbours and fronds (palm leaves were used to build roofs) and lived in tents made of sheep wool (which women sewed). These tents made mobility easier. During summer, they lived close to the water and under Prosopis trees. Their tents were sometimes made of canvas (Indian flax). Women were in charge of collecting enough dates to last for the



e s f c r a b e t t e r n t o r r o w

THE PALM tree is considered a blessed tree because every part of it can be and was used – in every aspect of the lives of the early people of the UAE.

upcoming year, during which time the men went on diving trips.

Methods of marking dates and seasons:

Life was arranged according to four seasons: the summer, high summer (al-qayd), fall (al-safri, which is the early days of winter) and winter. The summer is what we now consider to be the spring season, while the highsummer was referred to as al-qayd because it coincides with the ripening of dates on palm trees. The drier the weather, the better the quality of the dates. There were different types of dates, and each one had a name, such as

Khenaizi. Overall, there are more than 25 types of dates across the UAE. People waited for the rainy season (al-mrba’aniya; which is when the winter gets colder). These were the best rains for the growth of desert truffles (al-faqaa). Our ancestors consumed parts of the Pteropyrum plant because they were rich in iron, and thus mixed them with dates and sardines.

Al-drou is a star-based astronomical measurement system in the UAE. The most important star was Canopus, which would appear in the

southern sky on August 18. Al-drou adopted a decimal measurement system. Every ten days is equivalent to one dorr. The count starts at 10, 20, 30, until it reaches 100. The sixtieth dorr, for instance, is when the weather gets cold. In the seventieth, the temperature begins to rise, and women shear the wool from the sheep to keep them cool.

One fascinating story about our forefathers concerns camels and the Canopus star. They believed that even if camels could carry dates before the Canopus appeared, the camels would not



move. Therefore, our ancestors would wait until the star finally appeared so that the camels could start walking. Once the temperature of the seawater began to drop, they knew that the Canopus was about to appear and that winter was near.

To establish their prayer times, people relied on the position and size of the shade. When the sunlight aligned with a vertical stick in the ground, they knew it was noon. Throughout the afternoon, the stick's shadow grows longer. Canopus was also strongly linked to agriculture and its success. People would wait for the star to appear in order to sow seeds and make sure they grew properly. If they didn't wait for Canopus, the seeds could not

grow!

A fable passed down through many generations states that when Canopus rises, debts are paid. In other words, when the Canopus appears, pearl diving locations multiply and pearl production increases— as visibility improves and pearl hunting gets easier. Divers would come back with many pearls that could help pay their debts.

The 'Pleiades' star cluster also disappears for forty days. During that period, dust storms rise up. When the stars reappear, birds lay their eggs and dates ripen. That is why many poems are written about the Pleiades.

Nature was the only teacher our

forefathers learned from, and succeeding generations inherited that science from them.

Conserving food and drink: In the early days, people would bring dates from Al-Ain. They would place them in a large pit and cover them with sand, with a sign over them to pinpoint their location whenever they needed them. Passers-by could also dig and eat. We still repeat our ancestors' saying that "blessings are scarce" because they knew first-hand how rare resources are. For that reason, people only ate two meals, so they could prevent waste while eating altogether to enjoy the blessing of the gathering. They preserved food and resources, using them wisely, relying primarily on

“Our ancestors had forged deep relations with nature and lived in harmony with the environmental resources that abounded... decades and centuries ago.”



coffee, dates and camel milk.

Our ancestors believed that the future belonged to their children. They were keen to raise them to be strong and able, and made sure that the little ones drank camel milk before bed. This meal was called al-ghabqa.

To save water, people lived far from well water (al-tawi) in the winter and close to it in the summer so that their cattle could drink from it. They dug up a path, known as shari'a, from the well to the stable plantation, and changed the path's route daily in order to water other stables. They knew the importance of ponds and preserved them by cleaning them regularly, for they used to drink and water the

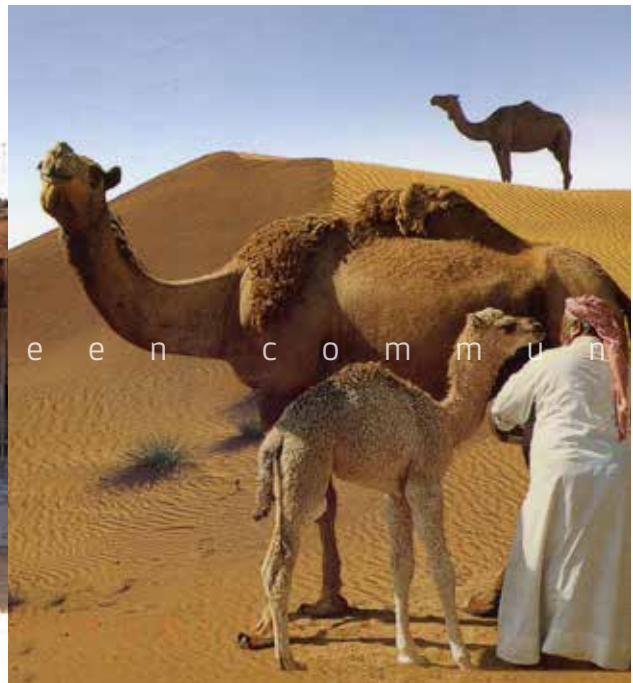
plants from them.

The Blessed Tree: The palm tree is considered a blessed tree because every part of it can be used and was used – in every aspect of their lives. Our forefathers ate the rutab (ripe, soft dates) and made coffee from the seeds. We built our arbours (old habitat) using palm fronds and used palm trees to prepare for diving trips in the form of ropes, oyster baskets and fishnets. Without the palm tree, diving could not exist.

Animal Care: People often travelled from one place to another, which helped protect the environment. In fact, animal dung, including sheep's, goats' and camels', would fertilize the

soil in more than one place— thus contributing to plant growth in various places. When plants began to sprout, people would move away to another place to provide calm conditions for growth. They would come back when the plants had grown to a suitable enough level for animals to graze.

Falconry: Houbaras and hawks were considered among the most important birds for having great environmental importance, and also because they were used for hunting. However, regardless of the type of game hunted, whether gazelles or rabbits, only two were hunted at a time, to maintain their numbers and prevent extinction. Moreover, our forefathers made sure to hunt



the males only and released the females. Neither did they hunt younglings. They would gather to eat their kill to preserve the blessing of food.

Special Care for Camels: Our ancestors paid special attention to camels because they were an essential aspect of the ecosystem. Camels are beneficial to the environment in many ways, and never destroy it. A case in point is the way camels eat, for they do not take out a plant from its roots. They only eat from the top of the plant. Moreover, camel dung is an excellent soil fertilizer. People drank camel milk, which lessened their consumption of other natural resources.

In conclusion, I believe that

preserving our God-given natural resources and environment has been ingrained in the sons of Zayed since the dawn of time. Our calls to adopt the same approach today are simply a reminder to re-establish the connection we once shared with nature. A connection that protects and does not harm. Our ancestors preserved the environment based on pure instinct— an astute lesson for us to follow that same path... for our own sakes and for the sake of many prosperous generations to come

EWS-WWF is the leading local environmental organization in the UAE, driving positive change to conserve the country's natural heritage.





"Global Inspiration Platform – Zayed the Inspirer" launched at World Government Summit

H.H. Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, launched "The Global Inspiration Platform – Zayed the Inspirer" to coincide with the "Year of Zayed" to tell his story and journey of the founding father in overcoming challenges.

"The Founder of the UAE the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, is a leader who inspired leaders, officials and the community, and a unique example of overcoming difficulties," Sheikh Saif said during his speech at the World Government Summit.

He was and still is an example to be followed by all who want to realise their ambitions and turn their dreams into reality, as well

as a man of far-sighted vision who believed the sands of the desert were not an obstacle to achieving his goals.

He managed, with his inspiration, to bring together seven separate emirates and announced the birth of the UAE, a country that now has an international stature, which was made through its accomplishments and people in record time. Sheikh Zayed taught everyone that inspiration creates opportunities, and opportunities are the first line to be written with the pen of determination and will in the story of success."

The platform of "Zayed the Inspirer" celebrates his centennial, from 1918 to 2018, as the founder of the UAE and its inspiration.

The platform was launched by the UAE, the "Land of Inspiration," to offer humanity an international collection of inspirational stories from around the world, as a source of inspiration to all humanity.





Campaign

32 creating greenery in community

'Plantation Week affirms UAE's commitment to environment'



The 38th Plantation Week was celebrated across the UAE last month under the theme “Sustainable Green Environment.”

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said that the annual Plantation Week reflects the nationwide commitment to changing the landscape from desert to greenery.

The commitment to the environment was instilled by the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in the hearts of the Emirati people.

Sheikh Zayed's holistic approach to agriculture and plantation

has been a major contributor to achieving the sustainability of natural resources today.

Speaking on the occasion of the “38th Plantation Week”, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi elaborated that over the course of the past 37 years, since the Plantation Week and other greenery initiatives commenced, millions of trees were planted and hundreds of parks were opened across the UAE, remarkably expanding the green areas and landscapes.

“Celebrating the Plantation Week in the Year of Zayed - the Man

of the Environment – adds more value to the occasion and urges us to exert more effort to carry on his legacy and achieve the sustainable environment he aimed for,” he added.

The Minister said that preserving and growing native flora has been a key goal of the Plantation Week for years. As part of this priority, various protected areas were established to primarily preserve local flora species and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change.

“The environmental initiatives



e s f o r a h e t c e r t o m o r r o w

SHEIKH ZAYED'S holistic approach to agriculture and plantation has been a major contributor to achieving the sustainability of natural resources today.

launched by the UAE's leadership contribute tremendously to expanding protected areas in the country. One of these recent initiatives is Al Marmoom Reserve, one of the largest protected areas in Dubai, launched by the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and spans over 10 percent of the emirate's total area. It is home to various species of flora and fauna and it welcomes varieties of migratory birds every year. Another initiative is the Sharjah Seed Bank and

Herbarium, inaugurated by H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah. It is a major addition to the national efforts to preserve plants and biodiversity in the region and protect endangered plants," he added.

Dr. Al-Zeyoudi emphasised that Abu Dhabi's steadfast commitment to developing large-scale mangroves and palm trees plantation programmes has significantly expanded the green landscapes across the UAE. Abu Dhabi is now home to over 80 percent of all mangroves and the

largest number of palm date trees in the UAE. The emirate's natural protected areas help maintain balanced ecosystems in the country.

He extended his sincere gratitude to the UAE's visionary leaders for their environmental advocacy that has paved the way towards a sustainable future. He also thanked all municipalities, government entities and private sector partners who observed the 38th Plantation Week, in particular the Sharjah Municipality which is hosting the celebration this year.

Initiative

34 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 businesses pledge to reduce single-use of plastics and packaging



Abu Dhabi's Team Zayed is engaging businesses in the UAE to commit to reducing one-time use of plastics and packaging.

Team Zayed' from Abu Dhabi's Environment Agency are engaging businesses around the UAE to commit to reducing single-use plastics and packaging, in honour of the environmental journey they are embarking on to Antarctica.

This 'ClimateForce Challenge' has been rolled out to mark Team Zayed's journey in February with Sir Robert Swan and an international team of environmentalists to raise awareness about climate change after witnessing and experiencing the impact of global warming on

the South Pole.

Last month, a number of businesses signed the initiative, which involves signing a 'pledge board', whether at cafes, schools or businesses, with customers and students able to sign the board to show their commitment to assessing plastic use and reducing it in their everyday lives.

The team, aptly named Team Zayed, to mark The Year of Zayed, will join teams from over 20 countries for two weeks to learn about climate change and witness first-hand the impact of

global warming on the continent. They will also take part in the renowned Leadership on the Edge Programme, run by polar explorer Sir Robert Swan, who was the first person to walk to both the North Pole and the South Pole.

Mariam Al Qassimi, Specialist in Communications, coordinator of the Roots & Shoots programme and member of Team Zayed, said, "We are trying to encourage positive environmental behaviour and get individuals, schools and businesses across the UAE commit to reducing their single-use plastic and



TEAM ZAYED is discouraging single-use plastic waste by buying foods that have minimal or no packaging, using reusable bags for shopping, and refusing straws and disposable cutlery.

packaging consumption. We are placing pledge boards in their establishments to sign and demonstrate that they will reduce their everyday plastic use and to encourage others to do the same. Pledges so far have included vows to reduce single-use plastic waste, to start composting, to only buy foods that have minimal or no packaging, to use reusable bags for shopping, to refuse straws and disposable cutlery, to carry their own containers and of course to spread the word to the wider community.”

“It’s a soft commitment from

people to start thinking about whether using something once and throwing it away is how we should be behaving as a society,” said Winston Cowie, Section Manager for Marine Policy-Regulations and Planning in the Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity, and another of Team Zayed’s explorers. “Your word is your bond. We are challenging people and businesses to live the value of sustainability and act accordingly. That is why we want people to take the first step and sign the boards, purchase their own reusable cups and bags, and be energisers in their own families

and communities to facilitate behavioural change.”

Rashed Al Zaabi, Scientist for Mammals in the Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity and the third member of Team Zayed, said, “At the recent Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots annual awards, it was really inspiring to see that one of the schools had phased out single use plastic water bottles over the course of a year. This resulted in over 500,000 less plastic bottles being used and then thrown away. We are encouraging people and all organisations to consider if they can do the same.”



DHA holds exhibition in memory of Sheikh Zayed

In line with the Year of Zayed, the Dubai Health Authority, DHA, held an exhibition titled “Sports in the legacy of Sheikh Zayed” at Al Wasl Club, where 100 rare sport-related historic pictures featuring the founding father of the UAE at various sports events were displayed.

Speaking at the inaugural Humaid Al Qutami, Chairman of the Board and Director-General of the DHA said the event was held to mark the Year of Zayed, announced by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to commemorate this historic national occasion.

2018 marks 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan the founding

father of the UAE who passed away in 2004.

Al Qutami said that the authority has a number of events and activities on its agenda to commemorate his memory and showcase his impact and legacy and promote the values that he displayed through his life in creative and interactive ways.

These events reflect his values, which focus on building a strong and productive society capable of elevating the UAE’s world status.

He added that Sheikh Zayed’s memory will always remain alive among the people of the UAE.

He will be remembered for his humanitarian work and his

message of peace, which reached all corners of the world.

His generosity is experienced not only in the UAE and the Gulf region, but also throughout the Arab world and internationally, with contributions and initiatives that continue to reflect his unerring skill as a modern leader, who gained the respect of so many people around world.

The authority has prepared to celebrate the year through an agenda that focuses on culture and heritage, art, health services, humanity, sports and media.

Each axis includes a series of distinctive initiatives, reflecting important phases and stations in Sheikh Zayed’s life.



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

First Houbara Chick welcomed in Year of Zayed

The International Fund for Houbara Conservation, IFHC, has announced the hatching of its first captive-bred Asian Houbara chick of the 2018 breeding season. The chick hatched on 27th January at the National Avian Research Centre, in Sweihan, Abu Dhabi.

Commenting on the occasion, Mohammed Saleh Al Baidani, Director-General of IFHC, said, “Each season we warmly welcome the first Houbara chick into the world, but this year it is very special, as it has arrived during the Year of Zayed.

“It is only because of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan that Abu Dhabi has a programme to

restore the Houbara. So the first chick to be hatched in the UAE this particular year has a unique place in our hearts,” he said.

The first ever chick to be produced through captive breeding hatched in 1982 and, by 2016, the number of chicks produced annually by the fund surpassed 50,000. Since its inception, over 350,000 Houbara chicks have been produced in its state-of-the-art facilities. Many of the chicks bred at IFHC’s facilities are released into the wild as part of the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Houbara Reintroduction Project to restore and support the species in the wild.

Abu Dhabi’s Houbara breeding programme was initiated

over 40 years ago by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan, and is dedicated to restoring sustainable wild populations of the iconic Houbara bustard across the species’ range.

It is responsible for many ground breaking scientific findings, which are incorporated into the breeding and release programme thus ensuring it is one of the world’s most advanced and complete conservation solutions.

IFHC also works closely with partners across the Houbara range – which stretches from Morocco to Mongolia – to provide the best chance for future survival of the species, which is central to Arab culture and heritage.

Tribute

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

‘Founder’s Memorial carries forward Zayed’s legacy’



The UAE has established itself as a leading country globally thanks to the Founding Father’s efforts, say leading dignitaries of the UAE.

In a statement on the occasion of the inauguration of the Founder’s Memorial, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Ahmed Mohamed Al Humairi, has said that the memorial commemorating the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, demonstrates the carrying forward of the late ruler’s legacy.

“This legacy ensures the happiness of the UAE people, providing a guarantee that its youth will be provided with the necessary requirements for a decent life, as well as enshrining

tolerance and coexistence as core values of the nation,” he said.

“In 2018, we celebrate the Year of Zayed and the system of noble values and principles set by the late Sheikh Zayed, being carried forward by the nation’s people and ensuring the safety and stability of the UAE in challenging times,” Al Humairi continued.

The Ministry’s Secretary-General went on to say that Sheikh Zayed established the core pillars of the Union and strengthened its foundations for the benefit of the country and its citizens.

“Our Founding Father was able to ensure equality within the education, healthcare, employment and housing sectors, as well as preserving fundamental human rights. Sheikh Zayed was a symbol of advanced leadership and the UAE’s citizens emulate his legacy and character to achieve a brighter future for the nation,” he concluded.

Founder’s Memorial a witness to Zayed rich legacy: Hazza bin Zayed

H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, stated



THE FOUNDER'S Memorial has been established as a national commemoration of the UAE's founding father, his visionary leadership and his vast influence on his country and the wider world.

that the Founder's Memorial will stand witness to the great acts by the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

"The Memorial is a glowing tribute to giving, featuring contributions and services by Sheikh Zayed to his people, nation and the world at large," said Sheikh Hazza.

"Sheikh Zayed is a leader who loved his people and built a nation founded on values of tolerance and amity that respects rich legacy and embraces values of modernity," he added.

Founder's Memorial a gratitude to an exceptional leader: Sultan Al Jaber

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State and Chairman of the National Media Council, has hailed the unveiling of the 'Founder's Memorial', describing it as a token of gratitude to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, an exceptional leader who founded a country of dreams, achievements and opportunities.

In a statement, he said: "The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan had built an iconic symbol

of glory and lit the road for the people of the UAE to become the happiest people on earth."

"Thanks to Sheikh Zayed's legacy, we enjoy progress and prosperity today," he added. Dr. Al Jaber noted that the Founder's Memorial will enable current and future generations to learn from the principles and values upheld by the late Sheikh Zayed.

"The late Sheikh Zayed was a man of benevolence who helped the needy and supported those who yearned for knowledge and progress," he concluded.

Conservation

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

Zayed is the UAE's most prominent naturalist: Sheikh Nahyan



[Addressing an event marking the 40th anniversary of the Emirates Natural History Group, UAE Minister of Tolerance, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, recollects the environmental contributions of the Founding Father of the UAE.](#)

As the UAE celebrates the 'Year of Zayed', commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the country's founding father, it is appropriate that the Emirates Natural History Group is at the same time marking its 40th anniversary, the Minister of Tolerance, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, said at an event on 23rd February, 2018.

Addressing a dinner organised by the Group's Abu Dhabi chapter, Sheikh Nahyan said: "It is entirely fitting that your group's celebration of its fortieth

anniversary is occurring in the Year of Zayed because our nation's founder, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, is, of course, our country's most prominent naturalist. He had a love of nature."

Describing the Group's members, in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Al Ain and Fujairah, as "a small but illustrious band of people consumed by wonder, burning with curiosity, oblivious to hardship, and enchanted by nature," he went on to draw parallels with the approach of Sheikh Zayed not only to the environment but to wider

fields. "Your patient observation of flora and fauna, your desire to understand what you see, and your determination to invite discussion of your findings reminds me of the UAE's most prominent naturalist," Sheikh Nahyan said. "He applied your approach to diplomacy. He said that relations among heads of state should be marked by tolerance and dialogue."

He went on to cite Sheikh Zayed's comments about the environment and nature. "We cherish our environment because it is an integral part of our country, our history and our heritage. On land



FOUNDED IN 1977, the Emirates Natural History Group encourages and assists in the study and appreciation of the natural history and archaeology of the UAE.

and in the sea, our forefathers lived and survived in this environment. They were able to do so only because they recognised the need to conserve it, to take from it only what they needed to live, and to preserve it for succeeding generation,” he quoted Sheikh Zayed as saying.

Sheikh Zayed had stressed, he noted, that: “With God’s will, we shall continue to work to protect our environment and our wildlife, as did our forefathers before us. It is a duty, and, if we fail, our children, rightly, will reproach us for squandering an essential part

of their inheritance, and of our heritage.”

Sheikh Nahyan, who has been the Patron of the ENHG for over thirty years, went on to recall that when the UAE was formed, Sheikh Zayed had quickly designated the island of Sir Bani Yas as a nature reserve and had initiated his ‘Greening the Desert’ programme. “The work of the Emirates Natural History Group,” he added, “contributed to Sheikh Zayed’s decision in 1993 to form a Federal Environmental Agency. In subsequent years, under the leadership of President His

Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the country’s concern for the environment has steadily intensified.”

Those active in the ENHG, he said, “lead the way in educating us all about our more-than-human world. I know that you will continue to venture into the open air determined to observe even the tiniest organisms honestly and accurately. You will excite in us a love of nature. I admire your passion and am honoured to be your Patron.” During the dinner, Sheikh Nahyan presented the Group’s two annual awards.

Exhibition

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

National Environment Day Exhibition kicks off at Festival Arena Dubai



Amongst the main focus areas of the National Environment Day Exhibition included the environmental achievements of the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has affirmed that his ministry is continuing to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns in the UAE.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi made this statement while visiting the 21st National Environment Day Exhibition, which started on 16th February at the Festival Arena in Festival City Dubai, and lasted for a five-day period to target school students and community members. The UAE's celebration of this year's

National Environment Day that commenced on 4th February will continue till June, under the theme, "Sustainable Production and Consumption," for the second consecutive year.

"Celebrating the National Environment Day during the Year of Zayed adds considerable value to the occasion. The UAE's founding father and visionary leader always considered the environment as part and parcel of his philosophy and daily practices. Sustaining the environment for future generations was among the top priorities of his endeavours to

build the country, paving the way for its sustainable development," Dr. Al Zeyoudi said.

He explained that population growth and increasing levels of income caused by the UAE's economic boom over the past four decades have led to non-sustainable production and consumption patterns, which are among the major challenges facing the country's efforts to conserve its resources and ecosystems. Their negative impact is apparent in many areas, such as the country's high ecological footprint per capita,



THE EXHIBITION sought to introduce children and families to the concepts of sustainable natural resources and environmental conservation.

and high water, energy and food consumption rates, as well as its high waste production and carbon emission rates, he added.

“In the UAE, we believe that sustainable production and consumption are part of the national responsibility of both institutions and individuals. The consumer society is increasingly gaining importance in this regard, as it dictates production trends and influences producer responsibility. Ultimately, consumption is an individual choice that depends on a combination of factors such as

desire, which is often influenced by advertising, as well as purchasing power and awareness,” Al Zeyoudi further added.

“As a government, we are continuing to work relentlessly towards reducing the negative effects of production and consumption patterns and transforming them to sustainable ones, which will help to achieve the country’s sustainable development, in line with the UAE Vision 2021. I urge you to consider our natural resources as a national heritage that we live with today and will pass on

to future generations. We are confident that the collaboration of the government and community will have a substantial influence on promoting better sustainable production and consumption patterns,” he said in conclusion.

The National Environment Day Exhibition highlighted six focus areas - the environmental achievements of the UAE’s founding father, 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



eco-system. The exhibition sought to introduce children and families to the concepts of sustainable natural resources and environmental conservation and presented eight themed pavilions - "Zayed - Man of the Environment," "Little Farmer," "Forest," "Sustainable City," "Heroes of the Sea," "Waste Sorting," "Little Scientist" and "Cinema."

'Plant with Us' marks NBF's Year of Zayed initiative

The National Bank of Fujairah, NBF, has announced that it has concluded the inaugural event in the year-long initiative entitled "Plant with Us" to mark the Year of Zayed and raise awareness about environmental conservation and sustainability.

The event was held on 25th February, 2018 in partnership with Enable, a Desert Group company that cultivates horticulture projects and initiatives across the country, and its long-term partner Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF, the global conservation body EWS-WWF.

The inaugural event gathered community members around the "Enable Mobile Store", sponsored by NBF, to learn more about planting succulents from Enable's staff members. Additionally, EWS-WWF presented a workshop about safeguarding the environment, thus introducing the importance of individual contribution to this cause from an early age.





Abu Dhabi University unveils 'Year of Zayed Strategy 2018'

The Abu Dhabi University, ADU, inaugurated its strategy for the 'Year of Zayed 2018' during a press conference held on 12th February, 2018 at its Abu Dhabi campus. The move is in response to the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to launch the "National Strategy for the Year of Zayed".

Salem Mubarak Al Dhaheri, ADU Executive Director of Community Relations, and other ADU's officials as well as media representatives were present.

The strategy includes various initiatives and activities aiming to commemorate the memory of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan,

honour his legacy, promote his values and vision and celebrate the achievements realised in the reign of Sheikh Zayed.

Ali Saeed Bin Harmal Al Dhaheri Chairman of ADU's Executive Board, said, "Our initiatives under the umbrella of the 'ADU Year of Zayed Strategy 2018 aim to instill the values of the late Sheikh Zayed across the ADU community and nationwide.

"At the heart of its spectacular achievements that allowed the country to assume a position of preeminence regionally and internationally lies the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed."

Al Dhaheri added, "The agenda of ADU's Year of Zayed 2018

Strategy would cover diverse social and cultural areas reflecting ADU's commitment to the nationwide initiative."

The agenda starts with the launch of Sheikh Zayed Awards for Community Service, organisation of the Sheikh Zayed walkathon, as well as hosting people of determination at ADU.

He added that during the month of May, ADU will witness the commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of the birth of the Founding Father. Various initiatives will also include "Because Zayed taught us" campaign, "Workers Can Speak" English training, "We Read for Them" initiative, training programmes for special needs and Zayed Social Responsibility Event.

Initiative

46 creating green communities

Call to strengthen eco-literacy of students to drive green schools in the UAE



The Emirates Coalition for Green Schools, cited as major step for driving sustainability initiatives across UAE schools, aims to ensure that every child in the UAE learns in a green school within this generation.

Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC), an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting green building practices, has called for strengthening eco-literacy among students and promoting public private partnerships for achieving the 'green' transformation of UAE's schools.

The recommendations for transforming UAE's schools into sustainable environments are highlighted in the 'State of Our Schools' whitepaper authored

by EmiratesGBC following a roundtable of the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools, a national initiative launched by EmiratesGBC aligned with the Global Coalition for Green Schools.

The UAE's strongest advocates of green schools took part in the roundtable, held in November 2017, to deliberate about the 'state of our schools'. The event was supported by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Taqati and Etihad Energy Services. The participants included representatives of government,

tertiary level academics, elementary school teachers, education and sustainability related associations, media and the private sector.

The three key objectives of the roundtable have now been achieved with the White Paper, which defines green schools in the UAE, assesses the current state of the UAE schools, and identifies which stakeholders must be engaged to determine an effective course of action.

Accordingly, a 'green school' is defined as one that 'provides

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



EMIRATESGBC's 'State of Our Schools' report calls for strengthening public-private partnerships and eco-literacy of students to drive green schools in the UAE.

a healthy environment for occupants conducive to learning while optimising environmental performance and encouraging environmental literacy. The State of our Schools report points out the consensus among the various stakeholders that 'a very limited number of schools fulfil all the aspects of the definition of a green school!'

Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman of EmiratesGBC, said: "The State of Our Schools report is an important first step not only in further driving the environmental performance of our schools but

also in promoting concerted action to strengthen eco-literacy among our one million students. These young people are our future and it is important that we inculcate environmental awareness among them, which in turn will benefit not only the school environment but also the community and nation, at large.

"Through collective action and strong public private partnership, we can achieve the Coalition's vision of 'ensuring that every child in the UAE has the opportunity to learn in a green school within this generation,'" he added.

Aref Abouzahr, Executive Director of TAQATI Dubai Energy Efficiency Program and member of the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools, said: "With overall trends indicating the need to make our schools greener, it is of utmost importance to focus on energy efficiency alongside environmental aspects. To build and sustain the momentum of green transformation, schools should invest in energy efficient solutions and technologies such as retrofitting and transitioning towards renewable energy sources, particularly distributed solar. Green schools would greatly



support the UAE's sustainability vision and energy efficiency goals set forth by our leadership.”

A key outcome of the State of Our Schools roundtable was the collective agreement that a very limited number of schools, fulfil the agreed definition of a green school in the UAE.

The White Paper points out that with 1,316 schools in the UAE and over a million students enrolled, the nation has significant potential to achieve green schools by educating and influencing the future advocates of sustainability - the students.

With each of the 1,300 plus schools in the UAE having at least one or more operational

buildings, transitioning the considerable number of school buildings to green schools would allow the nation to make considerable progress in reaching local targets and the COP 21 commitment of limiting global warming to less than 2°C.

The White Paper also cites a study on the ‘Evaluation of indoor environmental quality conditions in elementary schools’ classrooms in the UAE’, covering 16 public and private elementary schools in Dubai and Fujairah. It reported that average TVOC (Total Volatile Organic Compounds), carbon dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate concentration, temperature, relative humidity, sound and lighting were outside

of the recommended ranges for classroom environments across the schools studied.

“While further studies with larger sample sizes are necessary, the existing research indicates Indoor Air Quality of existing schools in the UAE is in critical condition,” the report points out.

Underpinning the need for promoting green schools, the White Paper points out that green schools can help reach the UAE’s educational targets for 2021 as well as aid in achieving national and municipal energy, water and waste reduction targets. It also calls for a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary platform to improve the level of sustainability in UAE’s schools.



Global energy shifts set to transform the Middle East energy sector

Growing global diversification of the energy mix and an increased share of natural gas, renewables and electrification, is challenging conventional approaches and business models in the energy value chain. Oil rich nations have a window of opportunity to transform and be well positioned to benefit from this shifting global energy landscape, according to recent report “The Great Energy Shift”, produced by global strategic management consultants, A.T. Kearney.

Eduard Gracia, principal at A.T. Kearney said: “Market trends along the energy value chain are dramatically changing the landscape. We expect an

energy market characterized by increased demand in addition to increased electrification, supply fragmentation and consumer power. This will over time lead to stabilization of energy prices and a convergence of energy markets”.

According to the report, three recommendations will support oil-rich nations and national oil companies in the region to effectively address the global disruptive changes of the energy sector – embrace renewables; leverage gas reserves and expand down the value chain.

Many of the regional oil players have already initiated projects to prepare for the great energy shift ranging from investments,

into solar energy and gas, to increasing downstream oil and gas investments.

Commenting on this strategy, Rudolph Lohmeyer, vice president A.T. Kearney Global Business Policy Council said, “The Middle East enjoys an important advantage due to both its comparatively cheap hydrocarbon reserves and its geographic location.

“At these times of change, it is key that nations and national oil companies manage uncertainty by applying the disciplines of strategic foresight to their decision-making. This is particularly critical for a sector in which the returns on capital investment unfold over decades.”

New Dimensions and Challenges for Sustainable Date Palm Production



[The Sixth International Date Palm Conference, scheduled to be held from 19th to 21st March, 2018, will discuss new dimensions and challenges for sustainable date palm production.](#)

Date palm researchers, growers, traders, agro-industrialists, nutrition and health specialists, biotechnologists, regulators and consumers as well as suppliers of packages, fertilisers, planting material and farm equipment will gather in the UAE capital next month for the Sixth International Date Palm Conference under the theme “New Dimensions and Challenges for Sustainable Date Palm Production.”

The Sixth International Date Palm Conference provides a forum for updating on current issues

important to this industry as well as information on new products and services. Participants from the public and private sectors will deal with the aspects of the date palm from producers through consumers all around the world.

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister for Tolerance and President of the Award’s Board of Trustees, said the conference will be convened as the UAE is celebrating Year of Zayed in 2018 to inspire the significant role and efforts made by the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan, in the

nation’s agricultural revolution and for establishing a solid agricultural infrastructure that helped the country to boost food security.

Sheikh Nahyan thanked President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his kind patronage of the conference and for his support and encouragement for scientific research as an enabler of sustainable development.

“His Highness Sheikh Khalifa’s care for the date palm sector and agricultural innovation represents



es for a better tomorrow

THE INTERNATIONAL conference will assemble a powerful line of 250 date palm scientists, experts, and senior officials from 35 countries to exchange experiences.

an important socio-economic and heritage value in the nation's development," he added.

Organised from 19th to 21st March, 2018, by the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, in partnership with UAE University, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, Al Foah Company, International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Date Palm Global Network, Date Palm Friends Society and International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, the international

conference will assemble a powerful line of 250 date palm scientists, experts, and senior officials from 35 countries to exchange experiences.

Organisers say that under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed there are continual efforts to increase UAE's date palm productivity, to make better use of the date palm industry and produce an agricultural leap that will change the face of the UAE desert.

According to organisers, the three-day international

agricultural gathering aims to serve as a platform for emerging scientific and commercial knowledge as well as current and future challenges regionally and globally in date palm production, propagation, protection and marketing.



Renewable Energy

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

Masdar joint venture Hywind Scotland exceeds operational milestones in first three months



World's first commercial offshore wind farm running at 65 per cent capacity compared with industry average of 45-60 per cent.

The developers of Hywind Scotland, the world's first commercial-scale floating wind farm, have reported better than expected results in the first three months of the project's operations, with cutting-edge technology playing an important role.

A joint venture between Statoil (75%) and Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (25%), the 30-megawatt (MW) wind farm located 25 kilometres off the coast of Peterhead in Aberdeenshire has been powering around 20,000 households since it

was launched last October.

In that short time the project has withstood one hurricane, one winter storm and waves as high as 8.2 metres, with production and availability above target in each of the three months from November to January.

The typical capacity factor for an offshore wind farm in winter, when the wind is at its strongest, is 45-60 per cent. Hywind Scotland, however, achieved an average of around 65 per cent (a capacity factor of 100% means all wind turbines are generating

their maximum output around the clock)

"These outstanding results illustrate the durability of floating wind technology and its ability to perform safely and above target in the toughest conditions," said Bader Al Lamki, Executive Director for Clean Energy at Masdar. "The extremely encouraging performance of Hywind Scotland is positive news for the development of future floating wind projects with our partners, and supports ongoing efforts to improve the cost efficiency of floating wind."



es for a better tomorrow

PURPOSE-BUILT “pitch motion controller” allows project to withstand harshest North Sea weather conditions.

Hywind Scotland’s first encounter with extreme weather was Hurricane Ophelia last October when wind speeds of 35 metres/second (m/s) were recorded. Storm Caroline in early December was even stronger, with gusts in excess of 45 m/s (160 km/h) and waves as high as 8.2 metres.

Hywind Scotland’s wind turbines shut down for safety reasons when the storms were at their peak, but promptly resumed operations afterwards automatically. A purpose-built pitch motion controller integrated with the turbine’s control system

mitigates excessive movement.

“Knowing that up to 80 per cent of the offshore wind resources globally are in deep waters, where traditional bottom-fixed installations are not suitable, we see great potential for floating offshore wind – in Asia, the west coast of North America and Europe,” said Irene Rummelhoff, Executive Vice President for New Energy Solutions at Statoil.

Masdar has formed a strategic partnership with Statoil, Norway’s international energy company, to pursue joint offshore wind

projects. The two companies are also developing the battery storage project Batwind, which will store power generated by Hywind Scotland.

Hywind Scotland is Masdar’s second offshore wind project with Statoil after the 402MW Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm, which was inaugurated last November. Combined with London Array, still the world’s largest offshore wind farm in operation, the three projects bring the total capacity of the UK renewable energy projects in which Masdar is an investor to more than 1,000MW.

Conservation

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

Over-fishing and use of illegal nets threaten dugong population



Government regulators call on fishermen to fish more responsibly following discovery of five dead dugongs in what may be the biggest single die-off of one of UAE's most vulnerable species

Four dugongs, 3 males and 1 female, have been found washed ashore on Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Public Beach since the beginning of this year, in what may be the biggest single die-off of one of Abu Dhabi's most vulnerable species. In addition, another dead dugong, an expecting mother with a fully-developed calf was discovered in early February.

Following the incident, a team from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) made up of species scientists and marine biologists have been racing

against time to determine the cause of death and to intensify monitoring of critical areas. The results of the investigation and necropsy indicate that the most probable cause of death was drowning in an illegal fishing net, locally known as Hiyali.

Abu Dhabi is home to the world's second largest population of dugongs, with around 3,000 found mostly in the waters around Bu Tinah Island, part of the Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve. Dugongs, their foraging habitats and their migratory routes in the UAE have been protected under

Federal Law No. 23 and No. 24 since 1999. The UAE is also a signatory to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species making it an international commitment to protect dugongs.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of the Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD, said: "This discovery is a harsh blow to one of Abu Dhabi's most vulnerable species and it may be the biggest single die-off of dugongs recorded in a decade. It once again affirms the vulnerability of these iconic species to human



ABU DHABI is home to the world's second largest population of dugongs, with about 3,000 found mostly in the waters around Bu Tinah Island.

threats and the pressing need for fishermen to end irresponsible fishing practices. EAD's research has demonstrated that the majority of commercial and recreational fishermen are fully aware of the laws prohibiting the use of illegal nets and the protected status of dugongs in the UAE. However, in spite of the regulations in place and the awareness being raised, many fishermen continue to use Hiyali nets, because it is a particularly lucrative method of fishing."

"We will continue to prioritise the protection of dugong habitats

and we will carry on ensuring that Abu Dhabi's waters are managed in a way that protects all marine species, in partnership with the Critical Infrastructure & Coastal Protection Authority. However, as the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, stressed, environmental protection is not a matter only for government officials. It is an issue that should concern us all. And so, we call on all fishermen to fish in a responsible way," she said.

"In order to minimise mortality of dugongs during the winter season, we have already intensified our

monitoring of critical areas within and outside marine protected areas and we have continued to meet regularly with fishermen calling on them not to use the illegal Hiyali net, not to leave fishing nets unattended and to report the locations of any abandoned fishing nets to EAD," she added.

It is important to note that commercial and recreational fishermen caught using illegal and banned fishing gear and methods will be prosecuted, first-time offenders can receive fines of up to AED 50,000 and/or an



imprisonment term of not less than three months, while second-time offenders can receive fines of up to AED 100,000 and/or an imprisonment term of not less than one year.

EAD, with support from TOTAL and TOTAL ABK, has been studying and monitoring the local dugong population since 1999. These studies, which include satellite-tagging dugongs to study their migration patterns, have given EAD a better understanding of dugong behaviour and threats to the dugong population. Since it began its studies, EAD has investigated 153 dugong mortalities. By far, the most common cause of death has been suffocation from entanglement

in illegal or abandoned fishing nets. Other causes of death have included habitat loss, marine pollution and collisions with speeding boats. Most of the mortalities were reported during the winter season, which coincides with an increase in the level of fishing activity.

Interesting Facts About the Dugong

- Dugongs are the only marine mammals which are herbivore.
- The Arabian Gulf and Red Sea host around 7000 dugongs.
- Dugongs have been traditionally persecuted by humans for their meat and oil.
- Dugongs are more closely related to elephants than to whales or dolphins.
- Dugongs are shy, secretive

mammals.

- Dugongs are often referred to as “sea cows” because they feed almost exclusively on seagrass. They can eat up to 30 Kgs of seagrass daily and can weigh anywhere from 230 - 500 Kgs.
- Dugongs sometimes breathe by “standing” on their tail with their heads above water.





In support of the Strawless Ocean Movement

Freedom Pizza, the home-grown UAE pizza company, is leading the way for food delivery services in the Emirates, by reducing the amount of unnecessary plastic with its delivery orders. Freedom Pizza will stop providing straws with orders and will not send a cutlery pack, instead customers will be asked to purchase biodegradable cutlery.

As a member of the Strawless Ocean Institution, Freedom Pizza already uses uniquely branded cardboard boxes for its salads, sandwiches, sides, and of course, pizzas. Freedom Pizza's reputation has been formed over the years by founder and CEO Ian Ohan's commitment to an ethically focused business model.

All of the produce used is sourced locally and direct from the suppliers, keeping the company and its partners green.

This recent move to reduce plastic waste further emphasises Freedom Pizza's commitment to operating in an ethical manner. The pizza delivery company is working in collaboration with the local chapter of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, the international, non-profit, marine wild life conservation organization, which has the same objective of spreading awareness.

Freedom Pizza already uses recycled napkins and recycled plastic bags, nevertheless the company is looking to develop

similar, on-demand arrangements with biodegradable bags to minimise impact. Freedom locally sources wherever possible and are proud to state that almost all of the produce comes from Greenheart Organic Farms, right here in the UAE.

The Strawless Ocean movement reports, in the United States of America alone, 500 million straws are used every year. Campaigners have warned if action is not taken, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050, which is an extremely worrying thought. Plastic straws end up in the ocean primarily through human error, often 1) left on beaches 2) littered or 3) blown out of trash cans or transport boats and vehicles.

Abu Dhabi to develop Red List for key species in the emirate



Red Lists are important because they help guide conservation planning and the development of regulations for biodiversity conservation.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), in collaboration with one of the longest established environmental organisations in the world, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), has begun work to develop an Abu Dhabi Redlist for key species.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (also known as the IUCN Red List) is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of species.

Red listing is an elaborate and

rigorous exercise that uses data and expert knowledge and standardised criteria. EAD brought together over 25 specialists on species and habitats at a workshop in February 2018, including a team of experts from the Species Survival Commission, Provita and the IUCN Red listing Unit at Cambridge in the UK.

“Red Lists are important because they help guide conservation planning and the development of regulations for biodiversity conservation. At this workshop, we identified data gaps and

allocated resources to be prioritised for data deficient species and ecosystems in Abu Dhabi,” said Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector.

“The Abu Dhabi Red List would contribute to the national red listing process, both in terms of data and expert knowledge. Significant work has already been done in the region for many taxonomic groups, however, an up-to-date national or local assessment is still needed in order to support further actions



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RED LISTING is an elaborate and rigorous exercise that uses data and expert knowledge and standardised criteria.

and measures for the protection of key species at the local level,” Dr. Al Dhaheri added.

“The Red List would also contribute to achieving the target on habitat protection, as specified by the Key Performance Indicator (KPI), under Abu Dhabi Plan,” she further said.

Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez, Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission, said, “One of the key areas of our work is to support national-level institutions to carry out conservation action, because it is at this level - not globally -

that conservation policies are implemented.”

“Red Lists are the first step in the cycle, which must be later be followed by the development of action plans, and project implementation. Along with EAD, we performed simultaneous evaluations of species and ecosystems, to better reflect the status of biodiversity and improve cost-effectiveness. We look forward to working closely with EAD over the next few years,” Rodríguez added.

EAD has been associated with

the IUCN since the year 2000, providing funds to support its Species Survival Commission and Protected Areas Classification System, as well as the Red List of Endangered Species, which is widely regarded as the primary inventory of the global conservation status of flora and fauna.



Green Tourism

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

Steigenberger Hotel Dubai recognised for commitment to green tourism



Steigenberger Hotel, Business Bay receives Green Key 2018 Certification, the leading standard for excellence in the field of environmental responsibility, a prestigious citation that underscores the hotel's commitment to managing its energy, water and waste management systems.

Steigenberger Hotel, Business Bay has reaffirmed their on-going commitment to support the nation's call for sustainability and continue to grow its approach and commitment to sustainable tourism. Steigenberger Hotel Business Bay operates as a sustainable hotel, having received the Green Key 2018 Certification, the leading standard for excellence in the field of environmental responsibility, a prestigious citation that underscores the hotel's commitment to managing its energy, water and waste

management systems.

The hotel has also put in place multiple green initiatives such as transforming a previously unused rooftop area of 72 sqm into an organic garden producing herbs and vegetables for use in the kitchen and bars. The stand-out feature of this project is that the water used to irrigate the crops comes solely from the air-conditioning condensate, thereby saving the hotel gallons of water.

Sustainability plays an important role for Deutsche Hospitality, the umbrella brand of Steigenberger

Hotels and Resorts. The 'Green Meeting concept' is the hotel group's approach to providing meetings that reduce the impact on the environment and is set to launch officially at the hotel in April 2018. The aim is not only to decrease meeting costs, and pass that value on to the consumer, but to encourage delegates to learn how their interaction with the hotel impacts on the environment, and their own health.

The Green Meeting concept incorporates environmental considerations throughout all stages of the meeting in order to



THE GREEN Meeting concept incorporates environmental considerations throughout all stages of the meeting in order to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

minimize negative impacts on the environment. This includes such things as using energy-saving signage, recycled conference note pads, flip charts and stationery. Waste disposal from the meeting room follows a certified recycling/separation practice.

Branded and sealed plastic water bottles are no longer used and have been replaced with a water filter and glass bottles along with a unique healing crystal water bar. A carefully curated healthy coffee break menu features Eco Terra snacks, and a selection of healthy snacking options.

The hotel leadership team has been successful in devising inventive strategies to minimize environmental impact and improve process efficiency. All efforts are taken to source local food products materials with minimal packaging, and technology with low power consumption is employed all through the hotel. A total of 6,000+ halogen and incandescent lights have been replaced by LED lights which make the hotel 99% LED lit.

The use of water aerators on all guest room taps, and the use of

biodegradable laundry detergents along with low temperature washing of the hotels linen, has resulted in a significant drop in electricity and water consumption both on property and at the off-site laundry.

Swimming pools are consummate consumers of energy, water and chemicals, easily increasing the fresh water consumption by up to 10% in a hotel. By installing a 'backwash system' the hotel is able to capture approximately 400 gallons of 'grey water' for use in toilet flush systems and the surrounding garden areas per day.

Renewable Energy

62 creating green communities

Masdar to install 290KW rooftop solar PV systems at Khazna



The project will serve as a pilot for additional sustainable initiatives at both Khazna facilities in the future.

Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, a subsidiary of the Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), has announced that it will install a 290-kilowatt (KW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system to serve the facility of Khazna Data Centres (Khazna) in Masdar City.

In the presence of Khaled Al Qubaisi, Chief Executive Officer, Aerospace, Renewables and Information Communications Technology for Mubadala, Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, and Hassan Al Naqbi, Chief

Executive Officer of Khazna, signed a collaboration agreement on the project, aimed at further advancing Abu Dhabi's reputation as a hub for renewable energy and clean technology.

Under the terms of the agreement, Masdar's Energy Services unit will install a solar PV system on the car park roof at Khazna's Masdar City facility. The project will serve as a pilot for additional sustainable initiatives at both Khazna facilities in the future.

Khaled Al Qubaisi, CEO for

Mubadala Aerospace, Renewables and ICT, who oversees both Masdar and Khazna, said: "The UAE is committed to building a sustainable nation of the future, and pursuing bold ambitions - aiming to achieve 27% clean energy over the next three years as part of the UAE 2021 Vision. Mubadala and its subsidiaries are committed to supporting this vision, and are always looking at ways to adopt clean energy technology."

Masdar CEO Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi said: "This partnership is an example of the

collaboration agreement on the installation of solar PV panels at Al Khazna facility in Masdar City
اتفاقية تعاون لتركيب ألواح شمسية كهروضوئية في منشأة شركة 'خزنة' بمدينة مصدر



THE TOTAL generating capacity of the renewable energy projects in which Masdar is developing and investing globally is around 3 gigawatts (GW).

synergy between Mubadala's subsidiaries and capitalises on Masdar's holistic expertise in renewable energy. It also shows our commitment to helping the tenants of Masdar City access the commercial benefits of clean technology by reducing their utility bills."

Highlighting how this agreement fits into the long-term strategy of his company, Hassan Al Naqbi added: "Data centres have significant power consumption needs, and this new initiative represents a first step in Khazna's long-term strategy of

becoming a greener, sustainable facility. Not only will this support our environmental priorities and commitment to social responsibility in Abu Dhabi, it also makes commercial sense for our company and our end users -- by increasing energy efficiency and lowering costs."

Khazna, the only dedicated commercial wholesale data centre provider in the UAE, safeguards mission-critical data using the highest levels of security and operational reliability. They provide industry benchmark levels of power supply and cooling

services to better serve the growing need for data centre operations in the UAE and wider region.

With additional operations at Meydan, Dubai, Khazna is one of the largest data centre infrastructure operators in the Middle East and North Africa. Their Masdar City data centre is designed to be 40 per cent more energy efficient than a typical data centre in the UAE.

Masdar is one of the world's largest developers of off-grid solutions.

Exhibition

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

Region's agriculture industry under the spotlight



With a renewed focus on Crop Farming, Animal Farming, Aquaculture and Animal Health sectors, AgraME 2018 is well positioned as a catalyst to promote agri-tech innovations.

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, AgraME, which opens on 6th March at the Dubai World Trade Centre, is set to attract buyers, both locally and internationally, looking to source the latest products and innovative solutions.

Offering a complete end to end solution of products and services, the show has a renewed focus on the Crop Farming, Animal Farming, Aquaculture and Animal Health sectors with a supporting free-to-attend content agenda. All four show verticals are in

growing markets, with the MENA aquaculture industry expected to witness production volumes of 2.9 million tons by 2030 and the global animal healthcare market is expected to grow to USD 32.04 billion during the period 2018-2022.

Speaking ahead of the exhibition, Dr. Majid Sultan Al Qassimi, the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Food Diversity Sector and the Director of Animal Development & Health Department at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, commented on the current issues surrounding food

security and how continuous innovation in agriculture is key to ensure sustainable food diversity for generations to come. "In the past half-decade, food prices have surged worldwide, due to tighter food supply, continued global population growth, rising incomes and altered dietary patterns in an increasingly urbanized world, making food less affordable to many, and drawing attention to the deeper structural flaws in the global food production system," said Dr. Al Qassimi.

"Within this context, a special focus has been given to



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AGRAME will host over 260 local and international companies from 44 countries.

research efforts in agricultural advancements.

“Researchers have been hard at work exploring cutting-edge technologies that can increase the productivity and sustainability of farm crops. The UAE has also reiterated its willingness to share its expertise in this field both locally and internationally,” he explained.

“AgraME 2018 is well positioned as a catalyst to promote agri-tech innovations. By showcasing the latest game-changing innovations and technology in agriculture,

the exhibition brings us one step closer to ensuring food security in the future,” he added.

Samantha Bleasby, Exhibition Director of AgraME, said: “The refocus of AgraME 2018 has put us in a better position to attract the right suppliers from overseas, who have the products and solutions to really help local buyers and government bodies tackle to ongoing issue of food security.

“With the support of UAE’s Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, we have access to

the latest developments within security, and we have aligned our free-to-attend content offering at the show to support this.”

AgraME will host over 260 local and international companies from 44 countries. Visitors can join any of the free-to-attend conference streams which cover aquaculture, animal health and a specific stream hosted by the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) which will cover sector overviews and investment opportunities from across the region.



Brain Development Boosted in Green Areas

A new study published in the journal of *Environmental Health Perspectives* found that young children raised in homes surrounded by more green spaces exhibited more white and grey matter in certain brain regions, which can be linked to positive effects on cognitive skills. Cognitive skills include the ability to learn, to process and apply knowledge, to analyze and reason, and to evaluate and decide. This study involved lifelong exposure of 253 elementary school children to residential green spaces in Barcelona using satellite-based information to measure greenery around their residences. Working memory and inattentiveness were evaluated with computerized tests while the brain's anatomy was scanned by high-resolution 3D magnetic resonance images (MRI).

It has been stated earlier by many scientists that Green Cities with access to natural areas are healthier for raising children, but this is the first study evaluating the association between brain structure and long-term exposure to green space. The researchers were able to link long-term exposure to greenery to greater volume of white and grey matter in certain parts of the brain that can be associated with higher scores in cognitive tests, in addition to better working memory and improved attention.

A previous 12-month study of 2,593 children aged 7-10 from the BREATHE project in Barcelona also suggested that exposure to nature is essential for brain development in children. Children who attended schools with more outdoor green space had stronger working memories and fewer problems with attention compared to children in schools with less surrounding greenery. Green spaces offer children psychological restoration and greater opportunities for discovery, creativity and risk taking, which, in turn, are suggested to positively influence various aspects of brain development. Greener areas also have lower levels of air and noise pollution which could lead to indirect benefits for brain development and psychological health.

This is no surprise to anyone as almost all people love to live in a green area with open space. A professor of landscape and human health, F.Kuo, found those who live in places surrounded by greenery to be more generous, sociable, calm and trusting – no matter how impoverished the area might be. Prof Kuo stated that access to nature and green environments yields better cognitive functioning, more self-discipline and impulse control, and greater overall mental health. Greener environments also enhance recovery from surgery, enable and support higher levels of physical activity, improve immune system functioning, and help diabetics achieve healthier blood glucose levels. On the other hand, lack of access to green space is linked to exacerbated attention deficit, hyperactivity, higher rates of anxiety, and higher rates of clinical depression. It is also associated with greater rates of childhood obesity, many sicknesses and higher rates of mortality in children and old adults.

In less green environments, the researchers found higher rates of aggression, violence, violent crime, and property crime, in addition to loneliness and inadequate social support.

No authority should ignore green spaces in planning. Let us join hands to spread greenery for a healthy life.

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor

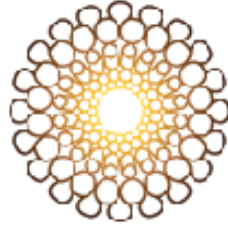
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