

April 2018

# Society & Environment

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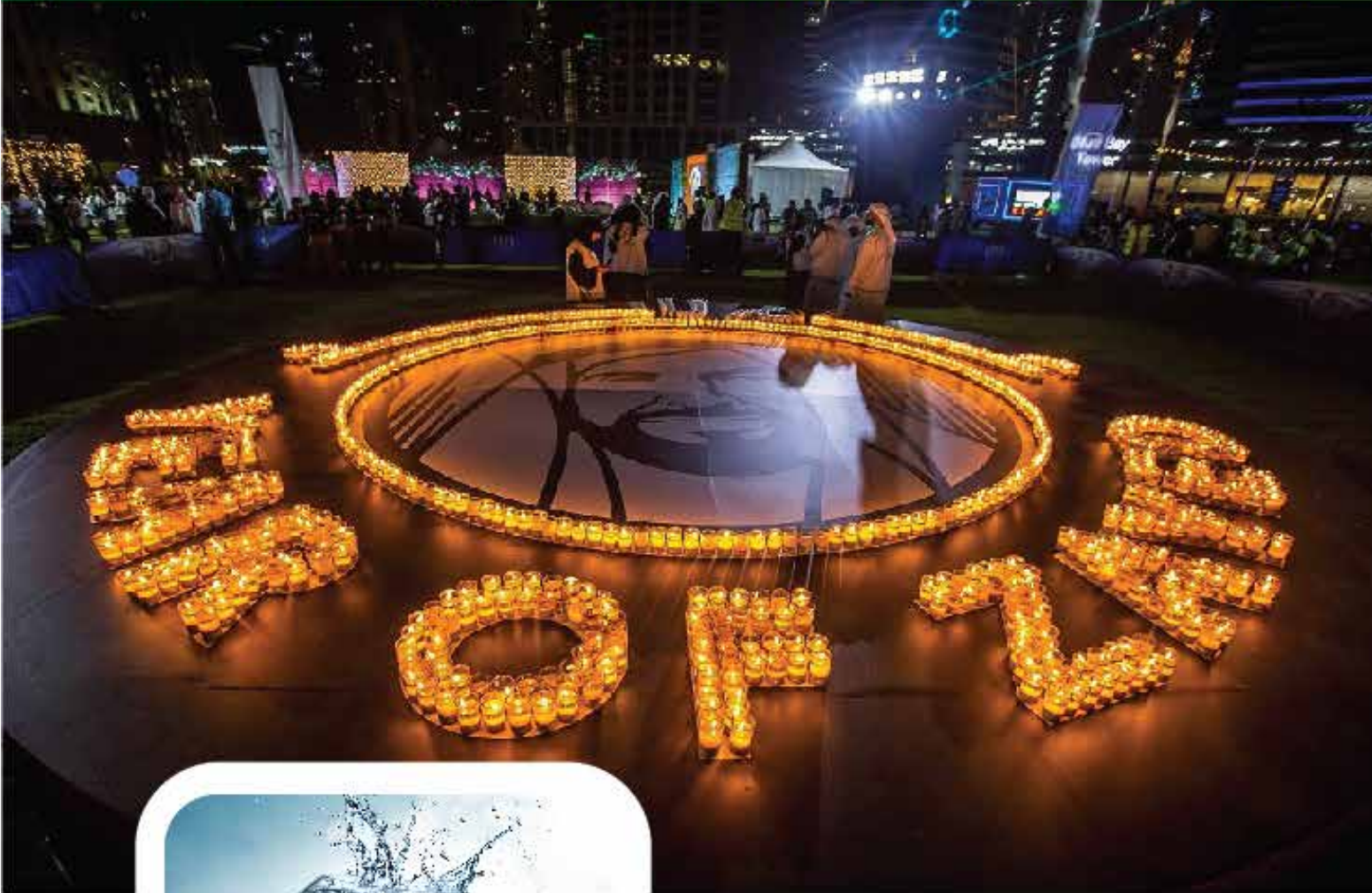


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دبي الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Issue 182

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



Dubai saves 323MW in electricity consumption during Earth Hour 2018

World Water Day: World looks to nature-based solutions for urgent water challenges



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

**Together for a green home**

# Chairman's Message

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

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**Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

Last month, we celebrated two major international environmental events – both ceremonial and symbolic, as a promise of what we can do for the planet, the annual renewal of that promise, and adoption of actions to fulfil these promises.

On 24th March as the lights went out to mark Earth Hour, the UAE joined a record 187 countries and territories to mark the event. Accordingly, major landmarks in the nation too switched off lights as a visual display of their commitment ‘to change beyond the hour’. There is no doubt that the greatest strength of Earth Hour is the people – cutting across geographical boundaries and walks of life – who pledge to take actions to protect our shared planet, making a global call for international unity on the importance of addressing climate change.

The Earth Hour may be observed for just 60 minutes, but this single hour is rooted in motivation and inspiration to shift the culture of consumption and adopt behavioural changes towards sustainability. The power of each individual to make a difference cannot be underestimated.

On March 22, we observed the annual World Water Day, which provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of clean water, and take action to counter water-related crises arising around the world. Without water, life is not possible. Yet, the UN estimates that more than 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than double that number lack access to safe sanitation. It affects their health, education and general livelihood.

Under the theme “Nature for Water”, this year we explored natural solutions to the water challenges the world currently faces in the 21st century. Water is a natural resource that is often taken for granted.

The launch of the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 also highlights how water runs through all three pillars of sustainable development making it imperative that we recognise now, rather than later, the vital role water has in our lives.

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# Se

## From the **Managing Editor**



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

“Nothing could delight me more than to see women taking up her distinctive position in society.”

- *Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

In the month that celebrates International Women’s Day, Happiness Day and, in the year that the UAE is commemorating as the Year of Zayed, I am deeply honored to have received the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” in Hong Kong.

I sincerely dedicate this award to the leaders of my country who have led the region by presenting opportunities for women to develop their roles in society. I would like to extend my thanks to the team at Dubai Police and Zayed International Foundation for the Environment for their constant support in taking forward the sustainable development agenda.

Special thanks are also due to H.E. Nabila Alshamsi, the UAE Consul-General to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for gracing the award ceremony and supporting my achievement as the only Emirati woman and first Arab national to receive this international honor.

My sincere thanks also go to the Gratia Christian College, UNPRME Hong Kong and UNESCO Hong Kong, for recognizing my international efforts as Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy and my leadership role as Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment in creating a positive social impact and working towards fulfilling the objectives of the sustainable development goals.

I am also deeply humbled to have been appointed as Co-Chair, CSR, under World Institute of Sustainable Development Planners (WISDP) initiated by UNESCO HK. To foster advocating the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs, my first commitment in this new role commenced with Earth Hour 2018 as I reinforced the intimate connection we have with our natural environment. I am confident that a sustainable and secure future for all is possible – if we work, nurture and support each other to take action for our planet and nature to leave behind a sustainable legacy for future generations.

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## Cover Story

6 creating green community

Dubai saves 323MW in electricity consumption during Earth Hour 2018



[Dubai significantly reduces its electricity use and carbon emissions during Earth Hour 2018 which is equivalent to a reduction in CO2 emissions of 140 tonnes.](#)

Dubai has achieved significant results in reducing its electricity use and carbon emissions during Earth Hour 2018. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) recorded savings of 323 megawatts (MW) in electricity consumption in Dubai, a 32% further reduction compared to last year. This is equivalent to a reduction in CO2 emissions of 140 tonnes.

Dubai residents joined millions of people around the world in expressing their solidarity with efforts to address the threats posed by global warming and

climate change, and raising awareness about pressing environmental issues. This was done by turning off unnecessary lights and electrical appliances during Earth Hour 2018, which the world observed from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on 24th March, under the theme 'Connect to Earth'. Dubai's landmarks, tourist and government buildings also took part in the event by turning off their lights for an hour.

For the third consecutive year, DEWA continued to offset the carbon emissions from Earth Hour activities. This is done

by exchanging the emissions resulting from organising Earth Hour 2018 in Dubai for Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) credits from DEWA's projects, based on the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Earth Hour 2017 activities were offset with CERs credit from DEWA's Thermal Energy Storage and Turbine Inlet Air Cooling (TESTIAC) system in L Station in Jebel Ali.

As the National Strategic Partner of Earth Hour UAE, DEWA



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

THE UAE joined 180 countries worldwide in switching off non-essential lights and electrical appliances from 8.30pm to 9.30pm to mark Earth Hour.

organised activities to celebrate Earth Hour, under the umbrella of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy; and in partnership with the Emirates Wildlife Society (EWS), in association with the WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF), and with the support of Dubai Properties Group. Many government and private organisations, universities, and schools took part in the activities from 4 to 10pm at Marasi Promenade Business Bay.

The Earth Hour Walk, the most prominent activity in the event, started at 8:30pm.

DrThani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA, Ahmed Abdul Karim Julfar, Director General of Dubai Community Development Authority (CDA), Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Saif Al Falasi, CEO of Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC), Khalifa Al Darrai, Executive Director of the Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, Dr. Essa Bastaki, President of the University of Dubai, Habiba Al Marashi,

Chairperson of the Emirates Environmental Group, and a large number of officials took part in the walk.

Al Tayer commended their participation in the Earth Hour Walk along thousands of people of all ages and nationalities who carried candles and eco-friendly lanterns to express their solidarity with global efforts to protect Planet Earth.

“Earth Hour is celebrated around the world as a global movement of solidarity for the planet. We strive, as we celebrate Earth



Hour every year, to spark public awareness and action for the rational consumption of natural resources to ensure they last for generations to come, in line with the UAE Vision 2021," said Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

Al Zeyoudi reiterated that the UAE is strongly committed to the highest of standards to stop the depletion of these resources. He added, "The wise use of natural resources is key to their sustainability. The UAE sees a significant drop in power consumption during the annual celebration of Earth Hour. In 2017 and per official statistics, participating federal and local government entities recorded a

reduction of 311MW in energy use. This resulted in offsetting 230 tonnes of carbon emissions."

The Minister of Climate Change and Environment added that in addition to significantly reducing power use for one hour, celebrating Earth Hour is a symbolic act uniting people from around the globe to raise awareness of responsible consumption of resources to ensure their sustainability.

Al Tayer commended the government and private organisations and individuals who support Earth Hour. "DEWA has been organising Earth Hour annually since 2008. The aim is to highlight sustainable practices that lead to a positive

change in climate action. The results Dubai achieved this year underline the important role community members can play to conserve energy and reduce the carbon footprint to protect the environment and natural resources and contribute to achieving sustainable development. The goal of organising Earth Hour is to urge everyone to adopt a conscious and responsible lifestyle in their use of electricity and water, to support the national efforts to reduce carbon emissions, protect natural resources, and ensure their sustainability," said Al Tayer.

"Celebrating Earth Hour is particularly important during the Year of Zayed, which marks 100 years since the birth of



DEWA achieves record energy savings of 323MW during Earth Hour 2018, 32 per cent higher than last year's savings.



the leader of sustainability in the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Our wise leadership follows the same path of sustainability to achieve a balance between development and the environment,” he added.

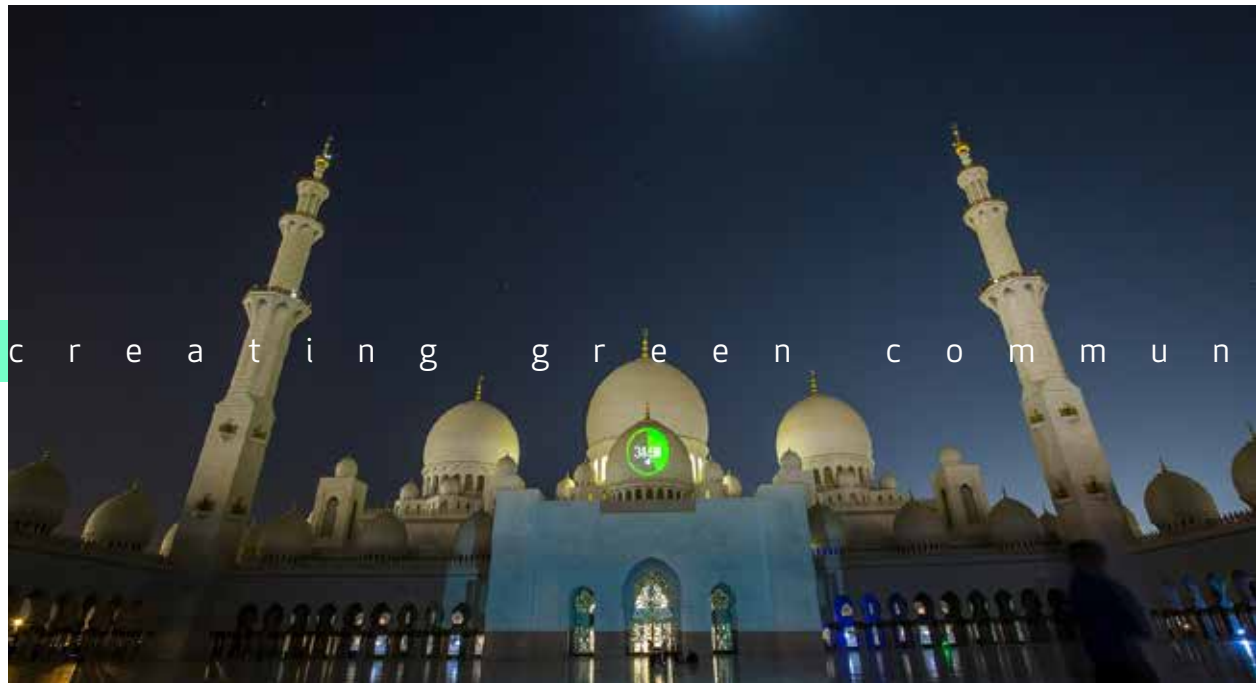
At the end of the Earth Hour event, Al Tayer honoured the public and private organisations that took part. He emphasised the importance of joint efforts by individuals, and government, private and non-profit organisations in supporting national efforts to reduce carbon emissions, find sustainable solutions to global warming and climate change, protect natural resources, and ensure their sustainability for generations to come.

The event included many family and fun activities to raise environmental awareness. It featured a heritage village, and a bazaar to support young Emiratis’ projects. Many government organisations took part in the event where they highlighted their efforts to promote environmental sustainability.

“Our participation in Earth Hour supports DEWA’s awareness initiatives and Dubai’s goals to rationalise consumption of natural resources and promote an environmental culture as the intensity and risk of carbon emissions increases,” said Major General Abdulla Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police.

Al Marri reiterated Dubai Police’s commitment to supporting the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, and implement the Zero Carbon Police Force initiative that won the UN Climate Solutions Award, and utilise environmentally-friendly patrols during police tasks.

“This is one of the most important campaigns to reduce the carbon footprint. Dubai Municipality has many projects, initiatives, and practices that contribute to enhancing opportunities to reduce the impact of climate change. One of Dubai Municipality’s efforts in this area is to turn off lights and reduce carbon emissions for one hour, in coordination with DEWA and the Dubai Supreme



Council for Energy, to save energy and raise awareness on climate change,” said Dawood Abdulrahman Al Hajiri, Director General of Dubai Municipality.

Al Hajiri noted that Dubai Municipality’s participation contributes to the restoration of the environmental balance and that we have to do what we can to reduce electricity and water consumption, reduce the use of plastics and paper, and recycle electronic waste and empty metal containers.

“The UAE is an excellent example of a deep awareness of the importance of preserving nature and its resources and protecting the environment. The UAE is reaping the fruits of the vision of

the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan for the environment. His efforts and vision made the country a global model for protecting the environment and sustaining natural resources. The late Sheikh Zayed worked hard to balance growth and development, on one hand, and preserve and protect the environment, on the other,” said Major General Rashid Thani Al Matrooshi, Commander in Chief of Dubai Civil Defence.

“Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services participates in Earth Hour every year since its launch. We should be mindful about protecting all aspects of the environment around us, such as energy resources, biodiversity, marine environment, ground water, the

ozone layer and other elements that help keep us healthy,” said Khalifa Al Darrai, CEO of Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services.

“The Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department in Dubai urges everyone to take part in Earth Hour, the global annual environmental event, and stresses the need to remember Allah’s virtue and blessings to humanity, and show gratitude through responsible behaviour and rational consumption of energy resources. Islam urges us to not waste. As Allah says, “Do not spend wastefully. Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful.” (Al Israa 26-27.) The Department

Earth Hour is a symbolic act uniting people from around the globe to raise awareness of responsible consumption of resources to ensure their sustainability.

**EARTH HOUR UAE**  
**#CONNECT2EARTH**

SWITCH OFF AT  
**24 MARCH 2018**  
**8:30PM**

To find out more visit  
[www.earthhour.ae](http://www.earthhour.ae)  
**#EARTH HOUR UAE**

**60+**  
EARTH HOUR

urges individuals, communities, home owners and businesses to contribute to conserving resources by switching off lights for an hour, keeping only important electric appliances on. We will apply the same in Dubai mosques, and all Department offices and centres, starting with its head offices in Al Mamzar in Dubai," said Dr Hamad bin Al Sheikh Ahmed Shibani, Director General of Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department in Dubai.

"As a socially-conscious company, Dubai Properties is committed to promoting best practices in all aspects of business, including creating an environment that is protected for future generations," said Raed

Al Nuaimi, Group Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Properties.

DEWA's programmes and initiatives achieved significant savings in electricity and water across all sectors. Between 2009 and 2017, customers saved over 1.677 TW/h of electricity and 6.66 billion gallons of water, worth over AED 1 billion. The savings resulted in offsetting around 900,000 tonnes of carbon emissions. DEWA's programmes and initiatives managed to reduce electricity use by 19% and water by 27% in the residential sector. The commercial sector reduced electricity use by 9% and water by 29%. The industrial sector reduced electricity use by 14% and water by 28%. Educational

institutions succeeded in reducing electricity use by 10% and water by 24%. Government and semi-governmental organisations reduced electricity use by 12% and water by 21%. Accumulated savings from electricity and water consumption, equate to over one million trees, more than 104 million LED light bulbs, and over 12,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Earth Hour is one of the biggest public movements in the world. It is celebrated on the last Saturday of March every year, a day close to the spring equinox, when night and day are nearly the same length, so this will ensure participation of most cities around the world.

Cover Story

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## World looks to nature-based solutions for urgent water challenges



On World Water Day, the UN launched the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 aiming to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**A**s more than 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than double that number lack access to safe sanitation, the international community drew attention to nature-based solutions for the water challenges of the 21st century on World Water Day, observed annually on 22nd March.

The theme of this year's commemoration highlighted the unique and fundamental role that nature-based solutions play in regulating the water cycle, keeping freshwater clean and improving the water security

of our water cycles. With the global population continuing to grow rapidly, demand for water is expected to increase by nearly one-third by 2050, while our freshwater ecosystems are degrading at an alarming rate – 64-71% of the natural wetland area worldwide has been lost due to human activity in the last century. Furthermore, water pollution has worsened in almost all rivers in Africa, Asia and Latin America since the 1990's

“We need to deal with the water paradox,” said Erik Solheim, head of UN Environment, calling

attention to the need to work together towards a solution for our water challenge. “Water is the essence of life, but we don't save it enough. It's time to change mindsets, it's not about development versus the environment.”

The 2018 edition of the UN World Water Development Report outlines a range of nature-based solutions for water management, from personal measure that can be applied in the home, to examples of “green” infrastructure that can be applied to rural and urban landscapes – such as



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THE THEME of this year's World Water Day is "Nature for Water", focusing on nature-based solutions to the water challenges in the 21st century.

planting new forests, restoring wetlands, and constructing green walls and roof gardens.

The report further clarifies that despite recent advances in the application of green infrastructure, a holistic approach to water management is to identify the most appropriate, cost-effective and sustainable balance between grey infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

"Today, more than ever, we must work with nature, instead of against it," said Audrey Azoulay,

Director-General of UNESCO in the foreword of the report. "Demand for water is set to increase in all sectors. The challenge we must all face is meeting this demand in a way that does not exacerbate negative impacts on ecosystems."

World Water Day is celebrated every year on March 22nd. This year, the commemoration coincided with the World Water Forum, held in Brasilia, Brazil. The Forum is the world's biggest water-related event, organized by the World Water Council. The Forum brings together water

experts from around the world to collaborate on making long-term progress on global water challenges.

**Launch of International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028**

World Water Day 22 March, 2018, saw the launch of the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 at the United Nations, aiming to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event, led by the President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, featured high level participation including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, AntónioGuterres. The Decade aims to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Clean, accessible water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and it is indispensable for human development, health and well-being.

There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. But water-related challenges, including limited access to safe water and sanitation, increasing pressure on water resources and ecosystems, and an exacerbated risk of droughts and floods, remain high on the global agenda.

Recent milestone agreements, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement, have placed water at their heart.

Guaranteeing sustainable water management is a vital element to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals in the social,

environmental and economic fields.

To implement these water-related goals and targets, and building on the achievements of the previous “Water for Life” Decade 2005-2015, the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 aims to create a solid platform to advance cooperation and partnerships at all levels, and put a greater focus on the integrated management of water resources.

The Decade will contribute to the achievement of these goals by facilitating the sharing of good practices and providing a platform for advocacy, networking and partnerships.



XXXXXXXXX ct uniting people from around the globe to raise awareness of responsible consumption of resources to ensure their sustainability.

## Wastenizer project to make Dubai world's first waste-free city

**D**ubai Municipality showcased nine of its prominent projects, including Wastenizer that aims to make Dubai the world's first waste-free city, at the three-day Middle East Electricity Exhibition, held in Dubai recently.

Wastenizer is a project that comes under the 10X initiative of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

It is a sustainable innovation to turn the city's waste into a decentralized source of clean energy, disrupting the use of conventional transportation and the existing waste management processes.

The initiative consists of developing a world-first, unique, decentralized waste treatment platform for buildings and residential districts in Dubai using a technology developed by Dubai Municipality. When completed, this project will be fully capable of treating solid waste of all types and components sorted using artificial intelligence and smart technologies.

The decentralized units will raise the temperature of the waste resulting in the breakdown of the waste's chemical components, which makes it environmentally-friendly and produce clean electrical energy which will be exported to the local electricity grid.

The Emirate of Dubai produces 3,500,000 tons of waste annually and 7,560 square meters of land is currently used as landfills and Dubai Municipality uses 3,850 garbage collection vehicles to transport these wastes to the landfills.

Wastenizer devices can also produce 17,500 tons of good ash that can be used for the production of green concrete.

The strategic partners of the project, which will be implemented by 2020, include local and international companies specialized in artificial intelligence, infrastructure, waste-to-energy, transportation, and major real estate and property developers.

## Leading the march to water security



[UAE is pursuing ambitious agenda towards sustainable water security, says Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, in an op-ed editorial.](#)

Clean, accessible water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and it is indispensable for human development, health and well-being. The UAE has announced its commitment to join the global community in participating proactively in the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 that was launched on the occasion of World Water Day on 22nd March 2018.

The new Decade will focus on the sustainable development

and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

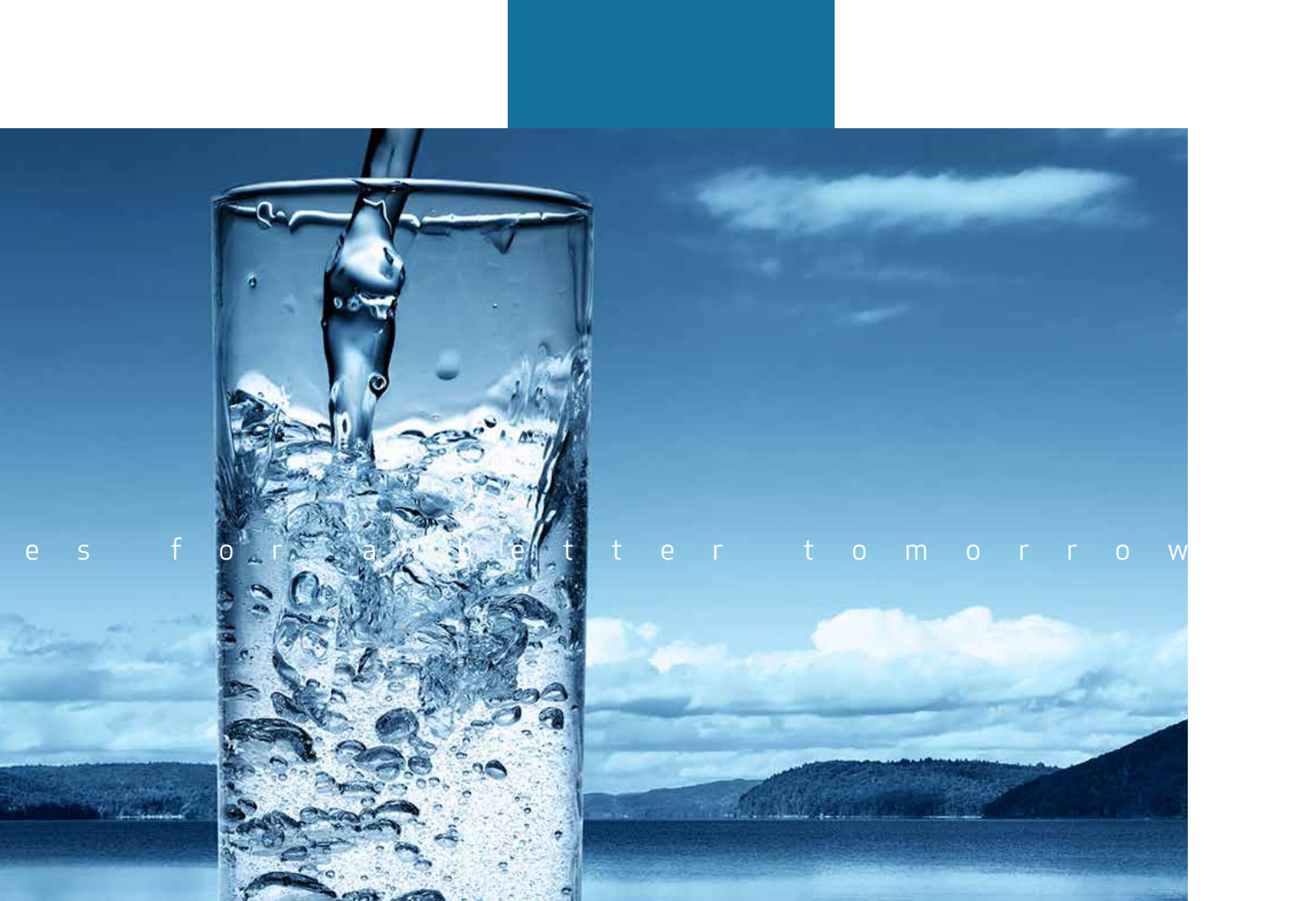
In an Op-Ed in a leading UAE daily to mark the event, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of

Climate Change and Environment, noted that the UAE has been pursuing an ambitious agenda towards sustainable water security over the past decades.

“We look forward to leading the march here, as we do in so many other areas, through formulating cutting-edge policies and technological solutions that help solve local and global challenges,” he said in the Op-Ed titled “Leading the march to water security”.

“However, overcoming the challenge of water security is not





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AMONGST THE key objectives of the new Decade is a greater focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources, as well as on continued cooperation and partnership at all levels.

something the UAE is pursuing only for the sake of its people. As with several other areas where the country is leading global efforts, the UAE's visionary leadership realises that policies and initiatives implemented at home can create products and knowledge that can be exported to the world and translate into a far-reaching impact."

Below is the full text of the Op-Ed: Among the biggest environment news stories to grab the headlines this year has been the water crisis in Cape Town and the countdown to 'Day Zero', when taps in the

city of four million people are expected to run dry. While Cape Town may have averted Day Zero until 2019, thanks to extreme water rationing and an anticipated increase in rainfall, this crisis should serve as a wakeup call to the rest of the world.

Today, 60 per cent of the world's population lives in water-stressed areas, where the demand for this precious resource far exceeds supply. That number is likely to rise: living with climate change means that we can expect to see more abnormal rainfall patterns, which in turn, could mean longer

periods of drought and extreme flooding.

The world now realises the gravity of climate deviance - the recent session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York adopted a unanimous resolution to launch the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development - a 10-year action plan comprising programs and initiatives that are geared to place a greater emphasis on the integrated management of water resources. Clean, accessible water is critical for sustainable development, and is indispensable



for human health, well-being and prosperity.

This is especially relevant to the UAE, which is one of the most arid places in the world. To put things in perspective, earlier in March, New York City received about 11 inches of snowfall on just one day, whereas the annual precipitation in the UAE is around four inches.

Exacerbating the climate situation, the UAE's population has grown from less than one million people in the 1970s to well over nine million today, accompanied by rapid industrialization and dramatic levels of economic and social development – as well as a formidable increase in the

demand for water. Alarmingly, our consumption levels remain among the highest in the world. Going back to the example of Cape Town, currently water is rationed to 50 liters per capita per day. At the same time, in the UAE we use 550 liters per capita per day – more than 10 times the allowance for a person in Cape Town, and more than double the world average.

Given this background, it comes as no surprise that His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has articulated that water is an even more important resource for the UAE than oil. It also explains why our country

has been pursuing an ambitious agenda towards sustainable water security over the past decades.

However, overcoming the challenge of water security is not something the UAE is pursuing only for the sake of its people. As with several other areas where the country is leading global efforts, the UAE's visionary leadership realizes that policies and initiatives implemented at home can create products and knowledge that can be exported to the world and translate into a far-reaching impact.

Think about it: if one of the world's most arid countries can achieve sustainable water security, it surely augurs well for

The International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 aims to create a solid platform to advance cooperation and partnerships at all levels, and put a greater focus on the integrated management of water resources.



the rest of the world.

And, we already have a wealth of lessons to share. The UAE was one of the first countries to institute mandatory green building codes that have cut energy and water consumption by over 33 per cent in new buildings. We have made similar interventions in agriculture and landscaping, as well as in treating wastewater and redirecting it for cooling, irrigation, and industry. This approach has saved our government and companies hundreds of millions of dirhams.

Masdar City is an outstanding example of an innovative and sustainable urban-development project that places water efficiency at its core. Buildings in

the City are designed to consume 54 per cent less water than average buildings do in the UAE. In addition, 75 per cent of the hot water requirement is provided through thermal receptors fixed on rooftops. The use of water for irrigation, likewise, has been reduced by 60% through leveraging an efficient sprinkler system and innovative landscaping methods.

Moreover, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is a major contributor to the UAE's strategy towards water security. It's many initiatives in this area include the Conservation Award, which raised awareness of the importance of water rationing among educational institutions' staff and students, leading to a

cut-down of their water use by 1.4 billion gallons in 11 years. Another major initiative by DEWA is developing a smart system for remotely monitoring the water distribution network and detecting any defects and leaks. DEWA is also in the process of establishing a sea water reverse osmosis-based desalination plant that once completed, will reduce the operational cost of water desalination in the emirate and enhance its productivity and efficiency.

Furthermore, the UAE is also investing in new solutions – the National Innovation Strategy directs research and development into a detailed plan for the sector and aims to achieve tangible international



benefits. For instance, the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science is an internationally - recognised initiative that offers an annual grant of US\$5 million for innovation in the field of rain enhancement. With the first two cycles of the program well on track to implementing water security innovations on the ground, it is set to become a game-changer for the world's arid regions.

Among the major areas in which the UAE has registered significant success is the country's effort in raising awareness of water consumption trends and the use of water in agriculture through consumer education. A clear example

is the phasing-out of Rhodes grass, which is a highly water-intensive feed crop estimated to account for around 60 per cent of agricultural water use and over 30 per cent of the total water consumption in the UAE. Many research and development projects are currently underway to increase agricultural productivity while reducing water consumption. These include the introduction of greenhouses, sub-surface irrigation and hydroponics. It is estimated that such techniques use 90% less water for the same quantity of crops produced.

The UAE is excited to join the global community in participating proactively in the International Decade for Action: Water for

Sustainable Development. We look forward to leading the march here, as we do in so many other areas, through formulating cutting-edge policies and technological solutions that help solve local and global challenges.





## Dubai Police discusses creative initiatives to mark ‘Year of Zayed’

The Year of Zayed Committee of Dubai Police held its fifth meeting to discuss creative proposals and ideas from various departments and mechanisms to implement them.

The meeting was chaired by Major General Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahd, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Academic Affairs and Training, Dubai Police, who stressed the importance of supporting the initiative as part of national efforts to promote values of national identity and loyalty to the country’s leadership.

He said the initiative would contribute to guiding young Emirati generations on how to

best serve their nation.

“An integrated programme will be launched in the holy month Ramadan to highlight the wisdom, vision and pivotal and leading role played the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in positioning the UAE in a prominent place regionally and globally,” he noted.

### **UAE Ambassador delivers a lecture on ‘Year of Zayed’ at University of Bucharest**

Ahmed Abdullah Saeed Al Matroushi, UAE Ambassador to Romania, gave a lecture entitled ‘The Year of Zayed’ at the Arabic Studies Centre of the University of Bucharest.

The lecture was attended the

University’s Vice Chancellor, Director of the Arabic Studies Centre and the students of the Centre. The lecture was organised as part of the ‘Year of Zayed’, to commemorate the UAE’s founding father; the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The lecture started with a short documentary about the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, his memorable quotes and his role in the building of the union.

In his lecture, Ambassador Al Matroushi highlighted the role played by Sheikh Zayed in the creation, and subsequent progress of the UAE and his plans to develop key sectors like education and healthcare.

Honour

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

Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar honored with “First Women Servant Leadership Award”



[Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar, Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy and Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, becomes the first Emirati woman and only Arab national to receive the inaugural “First Women Servant Leadership Award” instituted by Gratia Christian College in association with UNPRME Hong Kong and UNESCO Hong Kong.](#)

“Nothing could delight me more than to see the woman taking up her distinctive position in society... Nothing should hinder her progress... Like men, women deserve the right to occupy high positions according to their capabilities and qualification”.

- Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

**D**r. Meshgan Al-Awar, Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy and Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, has dedicated the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” conferred on her to the leadership of the United Arab Emirates “whose generous support for women empowerment has enabled Emirati women to attain new heights of glory.”

**Award dedicated to “UAE’s**

**great leaders”**

In a message issued on the occasion, she stated: “I am greatly honored to receive this award and would like to dedicate this achievement to the great leaders of my country, the United Arab Emirates - President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and to Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Mother of the Nation of the UAE.”



DR. MESHGAN AL-AWAR is the first Emirati woman and only Arab national to receive the inaugural “First Women Servant Leadership Award” for her contributions and commitment to the UNSDGs and UNPRME.

She continued: “And above all, I would like to dedicate this award to the Founding Father of the Nation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as he called for women empowerment even before the constitution of the UAE. I am truly humbled to be receiving this Award during the year that the UAE is commemorating as the Year of Zayed, in honor of Sheikh Zayed’s 100th birth anniversary.”

Through this noteworthy achievement, Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar has the unique distinction of becoming the first Emirati woman and only Arab national to

have received the “First Women Servant Leadership Award”.

Launched in response to the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development on transforming the world and, following the success of the UNPRME 10th Forum held in New York in 2017, the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” is instituted by Gratia Christian College in association with UNPRME Hong Kong and with support from UNESCO Hong Kong.

In her acceptance message, Dr. Meshgan also extended her gratitude and heartfelt thanks to

“my loving family, especially my late mother, my hardworking team and the visionary leadership at Dubai Police and also, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.” She also thanked Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed Foundation, for his constant support in her official endeavors.

**Turning dreams into reality**

Describing her journey on the path of sustainable development, she narrated the precise moment when her passion for the environment became a reality soon after the submission of a



proposal for the framework of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment.

“It was while I was working in my lab in the Department of Forensic Sciences that I was honored by the entrance of HH Sheikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Maktoum with His Excellency Lt. Gen. Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Head of General Security for the Emirate of Dubai, to discuss the implementation details of my submitted proposal,” she says.

“It was that moment and trust that opened the doors for me to serve the environment and sustainable development not only nationally, but regionally and internationally,” she added. “I am truly grateful to receive this

award and to be recognised by an international entity for efforts in creating a positive social impact and working towards fulfilling the objectives of the sustainable development goals,” she added.

**Realization of UNSDGs**

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar was chosen as one of the eight global winners of the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” for her contributions and commitment to the UNSDGs and UNPRME.

The skills and knowledge she has gained through her leadership capabilities in the fields of environmental awareness and sustainable development, and which can be transferred to the community, especially the

younger generation, is essential to the making of a knowledge-based society, noted the members of the judging panel for the Award committee.

This includes, and is not limited to, entrepreneurial skills, sustainable skills and tools (e.g. training, workshop, research, etc.) for improvement via developing sustainable relationship between mentors (e.g. academics, industries and NGOs) and mentees (e.g. learners from higher to secondary education institutions).

**Award ceremony**

A high-level delegation from the United Arab Emirates Consulate General in Hong Kong headed by H.E. Nabila



“I am truly grateful to receive the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” and to be recognised by an international entity for efforts in creating a positive social impact and working towards fulfilling the objectives of the sustainable development goals.”

- Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar



Alshamsi, United Arab Emirates Consul-General to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, graced the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” ceremony organized by Gratia Christian College in Hong Kong on 15th March, 2018 to support Dr. Meshgan Al Awar’s achievement.

Dr. Meshgan received a certificate from Mr. Chen Maobo, GBM, GBS, MH, JP, the current Financial Secretary of Hong Kong and former Secretary for Development of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

More than 250 guests from different industries, academic fields and NGOs were in attendance at the event.

#### **Eminent Jury**

The eminent team of Judging Panel Members for the Award Committee included Mr. MileknkoGudic, Founding Director, REFOMENT Consulting and Coaching, Serbia/ United Nations PRME Working Group Co-Chair, Anti-poverty, US; Dr. Angela Cheung, Vice President UNESCO Hong Kong Association, HK; and Dr. Shirley Yeung, UNPRME Working Group Member, Sustainability Mindset and Anti-Poverty, US/ Global Young Leadership Award, Asia Week, 2017/ Programme Director, Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO, HK.

In a message issued on the occasion, Dr. Shirley Yeung,

also the Convener of the “First Women Servant Leadership Award”, stated: “The realization of the UNSDGs and the six principles of UNPRME - purpose, values, research, method, partnership and dialogue - takes different forms through various ways in different countries.

“Establishing a platform with the co-creation of meaningful actions and influences would be an effective way to identify the values, skills, attitudes, behaviours and contributions for nurturing future servant leaders.”

She continued: “This Award serves to kindle the interest in and quest for Servant Leadership, innovations and collaborations.



“In the months that ensue, a series of activities on servant leadership and innovative entrepreneurial leadership in partnership with different entities like the UNOSSC will be organized to identify the attributes of servant leaders and leaders in innovative entrepreneurship and offer them appropriate recognition for bringing about social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts in the 21st century.”

In conclusion, she added that with the launch of the Award, its objectives have been attained, “namely the creation of a platform for exchanging knowledge and experience on servant leadership, assumption of a new perspective of

sustainable development, and the readiness to take up challenges in the future.”

**International press coverage**

The First Women Servant Leadership Award organised by Gratia Christian College, HK with support from UNESCO HK was a fruitful one and was featured in several Chinese newspapers and social media channels.

The UAE Consulate in HK shared an official tweet to mark the occasion of the award ceremony which stated: “H.E. Nabila Alshamsi attended the First Women Servant Leadership Award Ceremony organized by Gratia Christian College to support DrMeshgan Al-Awar. Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan once

said “nothing could delight me more than to see woman taking up her distinctive position in society”.”

On March 20, Chinese newspaper Ming Pao, carried an article on the “First Women Servant Leadership Award” and featured a brief on the UAE winner, Dr. MeshganAl-Awar. Other newspapers in the country also carried photo features of the award ceremony and highlighted Dr.Meshgan’s message to the world audience that reiterated commitment of UNSDGs.





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

## Lecture highlights Sheikh Zayed's women empowerment legacy

“Zayed and Women: From Challenge to Empowerment”, a lecture organized by the UAE Embassy in Seoul, highlighted the efforts of the late Sheikh Zayed in facilitating the participation of women in the community, as well as their education and the achievement of their ambitions.

The UAE Embassy in Seoul organised a lecture on 26th March, 2018, titled, “Zayed and Women: From Challenge to Empowerment,” which was attended by the embassy’s diplomats and employees and members of the office of the Military Attache, as well as several Arab students residing in South Korea. The lecture, which was delivered by Dr. Aisha Balkhair, Research Advisor

at the National Archives, NA, Representative of Asia to the World Oral History Association and Member of the UNESCO for Culture and Non-Material Heritage Preservation and the American Oral History Association, is part of the Year of Zayed initiative that was announced by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The lecture explained the characteristics of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, a symbol of Arab and international humanitarian action, who was well-known for his tolerance, unlimited giving and wisdom, and who also motivated and facilitated the participation of women in the community, as

well as their education and the achievement of their ambitions.

It then highlighted the efforts of H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women’s Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, to motivate the entire community to support the development of women and promote their achievements.

The lecture also told the story of how Sheikh Zayed established the nation and preserved the UAE’s heritage and traditions, which prioritise the family and women’s empowerment.

## Initiative

28 creating green community

'Year of Zayed an important step in UAE's journey of giving': Hamdan bin Zayed



A number of development projects by Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, have been launched in Pakistan to commemorate the Year of Zayed activities.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and a, ERC, highlighted the UAE's desire, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to strengthen its international humanitarian and development efforts during the Year of Zayed.

Sheikh Hamdan stressed that the Year of Zayed is an important step in the UAE's journey of giving, which aims to achieve progress in finding solutions to humanitarian issues that affect humanity, with the support of

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

He made this statement during the launch of a number of ERC development projects in Pakistan for the Year of Zayed.

Sheikh Hamdan affirmed that the UAE's projects aim to promote its role in the community and serve a

wide range of sectors and people in vital areas, especially in health, education and infrastructure, due to the positive effects of these projects in the social and humanitarian development of communities suffering from a lack of essential services.

Sheikh Hamdan stressed that Pakistan and its people are a focus of attention of the UAE and its wise leadership. "The UAE was present in Pakistan from an early stage and has supported it in adopting and organising projects that assisted vulnerable communities in facing their



THE ERC will launch many development projects in Pakistan during the Year of Zayed, which will promote the UAE's role in restoring local infrastructure and supporting Pakistan's development.

difficult living conditions. These efforts will be strengthened during the Year of Zayed, by studying the future needs of Pakistan and answering them through the ERC's various initiatives," he added.

The ERC will launch many development projects in Pakistan during the Year of Zayed, which will promote the UAE's role in restoring local infrastructure and supporting Pakistan's development. These projects include the launch of two new units at the Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Sakrwa, Sindh Province,

including one for intensive care and another for newborn and premature babies.

The launching ceremony, which was attended by an ERC delegation that was headed by Fahd Abdul Rahman bin Sultan, Deputy Secretary-General for International Aid, and included Saeed Al Khamiri, was supervised by Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, with the participation of Nasser bin Huwaidin Al Ketbi, UAE Consul-General in Karachi, and BakheetAteeq Al Romaithi.

The ERC also launched a number of projects in Sindh Province, to provide desalinated water using solar-powered pumps, and maintain the Sheikh Zayed Mosque and its facilities.





## Dubai Culture launches Year of Zayed book cover design competition

The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority has launched a 'Best Book Cover Design' competition for a book the Authority is going to publish entitled 'Zayed the Leader', which is due to be released during the Year of Zayed 2018. The book captures the life and values of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE.

The competition is open to all designers in the UAE to create a unique 'Year of Zayed' inspired cover design that captures the contents of the book and reflects the late Sheikh Zayed's personality in its simplicity and strength.

Saeed Al Nabouda, Acting

Director-General of Dubai Culture, said, "The Year of Zayed is an incredibly important occasion for the whole nation, as it encourages us to remember and cherish the values that the late Sheikh Zayed instilled in us.

"Dubai Culture organised and will continue organising a range of events and initiatives that uphold these values. Our 'Best Book Cover Design' competition aims to involve designers in highlighting the achievements of our Founding Father and finding beautiful visual ways to share his legacy with the public on the cover of 'Zayed the Leader'."

Al Nabouda pointed out that the late Sheikh Zayed's principles and values were and will remain

the foundations of the UAE, while his leadership continues to be a source of inspiration.

During his time as the President of the UAE, he established the state's pillars with love and affection, embraced the good, shaped virtuous international relations, made sincerity, loyalty, justice and equality central UAE values, and built the foundations for a future based on security, safety, tolerance, happiness and innovation, making the UAE a global role model.

Participants in the competition are encouraged to draw on the contents of 'Zayed the Leader', which includes eleven chapters focused on Zayed's values, history and philosophy.



## Record-breaking notebook mosaic logo commemorates Year of Zayed

**A**bu Dhabi University, ADU, and Knowledge Group, KG, have entered the Guinness World Records for creating the largest notebook mosaic logo in celebration of the Year of Zayed. The record-breaking initiative also coincided with UAE National Month of Reading that is annually marked in March.

ADU received the recognition for its record-breaking effort - one of several initiatives announced as part of its Year of Zayed Strategy 2018 - at a special ceremony at its main campus in the UAE capital. The ceremony was attended by Ali Saeed bin Harmal Al Dhaheri, Chairman of ADU's Executive Board, and the wider ADU community, as well as Guinness World Records

representative.

Earning the university its first-ever Guinness World Record, the notebook mosaic of the Year of Zayed logo measures 702.82 square metres and is made up of 25,000 notebooks. All 25,000 notebooks will be donated to people in need.

Speaking on the occasion, Al Dhaheri said, "Abu Dhabi University is proud to have set the Guinness World Record for the world's largest notebook mosaic logo. This is indeed a special milestone for the university as we celebrate Year of Zayed and the legacy and values of the Founding Father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. We are

delighted through our Year of Zayed initiatives to pay homage to our exemplary leader, and to introduce our future generations to his relentless efforts and landmark achievements that laid the foundation for the UAE's success story."

"We dedicate this record to the memory of Sheikh Zayed as our small tribute to his immense contributions as a statesman, humanitarian and true visionary of his time," he added.





## Year of Zayed Balloon concludes tour of several Jordanian cities

The UAE Hot Air Balloon Team concluded its tour of Jordan, which began in March, via the launch the Year of Zayed Balloon, led by Captain Pilot Abdulaziz Nasser Al Mansouri, President of the UAE Hot Air Balloon Team.

The balloon started in Petra and travelled through Al Karak and Disah in Wadi Ram, to celebrate the Year of Zayed with a wide public presence.

At the end of its tour, the balloon and its technical team met with Prince Hamza bin Al Hussain, President of the Royal Jordanian Aerial Sports Club, in his office in Amman, who conveyed the appreciation of

King Abdullah II Jordan, for the efforts of the UAE people to promote traditional Arab identity and culture and Jordanian culture.



Prince Hamza highlighted the desire of King Abdullah II to support Arab and Emirati talents in promoting traditional Arab civilisation that calls for

tolerance and communication between the world's people and communities, which was reflected by the balloon's activities. He added that Jordan's

leadership and people respect and commemorate the memory of the UAE's founding leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who is appreciated by Arab and human history for his contributions to humanity.

Captain Al Mansouri said that the balloon's tour of Jordan is part of an Arab and international tour led by the Emirati people, to promote international tolerance and communication and the UAE's spirit of peace.





## ECSSR organises 'Zayed and Oil' lecture

The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) organized a lecture titled "Zayed and Oil" at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi on 28th March, 2018.

According to ECSSR, from the moment he became ruler of Abu Dhabi in 1966, the late Sheikh Zayed, was keen to manage the wealth from the oil and gas industry and maintain a fair price for oil. Also, Sheikh Zayed was the first to use oil as a weapon in the October 1973 War.

"On more than one occasion, the late Sheikh Zayed stated that the oil belonged to the people. He also stressed the fact that the oil would eventually run out. Therefore, the future of the

coming generations had to be considered so that the wealth was utilized to create new sources of income," stated the organisers.

At the lecture, media professional Khalil Ailabouni, the Head of the Office of the Adviser to His Highness the President of the United Arab Emirates, presented his real and personal experiences with the Founder of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. His interactions with Sheikh Zayed took place during Ailabouni's work in radio from January 1971 on Black Gold, the programme that is considered the start of the official media coverage of the oil industry in the UAE. The thoughts of Sheikh Zayed and

his initial words about oil have since constantly remained on Ailabouni's mind.

Through his work, Ailabouni sought to resist the agendas that some of the oil companies were adopting. He has been inspired by the wise sayings and principled positions of Sheikh Zayed, which have been recorded in the annals of history.



Seminar

34 creating green communities

Political, cultural legacies of Sheikh Zayed highlighted at Paris Book Fair



[Emirati culture and literature were showcased in France from March 16-19 with the participation of more than 150 authors and intellectuals.](#)

The Sharjah Pavilion at Paris Book Fair 2018, celebrated its participation this year as the Special Guest City of the fair, by hosting on 17th March, 2018, a seminar titled “Zayed: The Benevolent” presented by Mohammed Al Murr, Chairman of the Board of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library Establishment, and Jack Lang, Chairman of the Arab World Institute in Paris.

The seminar highlighted the rich legacy and experience of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his exceptional

achievements in politics, which led to the existing rich diplomacies between the East and West.

The seminar was held as part of the pavilion’s programmes and events featured at this year’s Paris Book Fair (Livre Paris).

The seminar was moderated by Dr. Ali bin Tamim, Director General of Abu Dhabi Media, who highlighted the importance of taking advantage of such a participation to celebrate “The Year of Zayed” in Paris.

“The celebration of the late Sheikh

Zayed in Paris is an indication that the late founder of the UAE is still alive in the hearts and minds of many people in and around the UAE,” bin Tamim said.

Dr. Mohammed Al Murr began his talk by extending his profound gratitude and appreciation to His Highness The Ruler of Sharjah for his immense efforts and leading knowledge and cultural initiatives.

Speaking about the late founding father of the UAE, Al Murr said: “Sheikh Zayed was a phenomenal leader among many leaders in the Middle East. Post the



SHARJAH'S PAVILION at the Paris Book Fair became a platform that brought together all aspects of Arab and French cultures.

region's colonialism era, many countries were led by iconic and historical leaders, with some leaving behind some of the most diverse legacies, while some imposing a dictatorship policy and others failing to achieve a proper development infrastructure in their countries.

"This made many citizens in some of these countries pressure these leaders after losing their faith in them after many decades, but Sheikh Zayed was an exception."

Al Murr pointed out that since the discovery of oil in the region,

the UAE had a leading role in using this discovery as means to develop its nation and people, different from how other nations turned this crude into a curse, disregarding the development of their communities and people.

He said: "In contrast, the late Sheikh Zayed, with his wise leadership, led the UAE to where it is today. The UAE has become a role model, not in the Arabian Gulf region, but also in the whole world."

Speaking on the occasion, Jack Lang said that he was fortunate

in meeting the late Sheikh Zayed, during his time as a minister in the 1980s in the UAE and in France.

He said the unification of the emirates into one strong country was one of the greatest ambitions achieved and realized by the late founding father.

He explained: "This strong country has continued to press ahead and grow stronger after his departure, carrying strategic forward planning, accomplishing the impossible and creating new horizons in the UAE especially in politics and diplomacy."



## Sheikh Zayed announced as 'Personality of the Year' for Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

In celebration of the Year of Zayed, and in appreciation of his numerous intellectual and cultural contributions to shape a society centered on knowledge and innovation, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi; DCT Abu Dhabi; announced the selection of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as the 'Personality of the Year' for the 28th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF.

The event, to be held from 25th April to 1st May, 2018, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, will witness the participation of a number of Arab and foreign publishing houses.

Choosing Sheikh Zayed as this edition's 'Personality of the Year'

celebrates his profoundly effective role in shaping today's UAE society. Founded on the premise that educated individual is what makes a nation wealthy, rather than money, Sheikh Zayed endeavored throughout his life to sustain a balanced community by preserving traditions and heritage, while also adopting a culture of innovation, and acceptance.

The book fair will encompass a wide-ranging professional and cultural programme featuring word-class activities and symbols of thought and literature.

For its 28th edition, ADIBF will place special focus on e-publishing, digital content, e-applications, and the latest technologies in the publishing world, providing the

ideal space for content developers and service providers to showcase their products and services to the publishing community.

Saif Saeed Ghobash, DCT Director-General, said, "Through its programme of seminars and discussions, this edition of ADIBF will reflect the extraordinary vision of the founder of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to express his committed work ethic and exceptional contribution to our society. As the nation celebrates the Year of Zayed, we strive to highlight the valuable intellectual legacy of the founder of our country, and his deep belief in the strategic significance of education and culture in human development and in strengthening the country's international relations.



## National Archives kicks-off 'Zayed in 100 Stories' workshops

The National Archives has begun a series of workshops for school students, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, to introduce them to the standards required for writing stories, as part of a national education initiative, titled 'Zayed in 100 Stories', launched under the framework of the '100 National Initiatives' by the national archiving body to celebrate the Year of Zayed.

The initiative is also part of the fifth 'Students Storytellers Club', which aims to teach students about the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The initiative aims to encourage loyalty to the nation and its leadership and develop the personality of students, as well as

promote ethical values, through scientific research and national writing.

As part of the initiative, the students will prepare and draft stories about the founding leader, which will showcase their knowledge and the stories they know about Sheikh Zayed.

The workshops, run by experts and specialists from the National Archives at its headquarters and in several schools, aim to raise the awareness of students about the importance of highlighting Sheikh Zayed's personality and legacy.

### **Year of Zayed Walkathon**

Abu Dhabi University, ADU, hosted the Sheikh Zayed Walkathon on

7th March, one of the initiatives announced as part of its Year of Zayed Strategy 2018, at its Al Ain campus.

Honouring the memory of the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the event paid tribute to his legacy, and celebrated his pioneering vision that drove the progress of the UAE since its establishment in 1971, as well as the principles and values that he instilled in the nation.

The walkathon drew the participation of around 350 ADU students, faculty and staff as well as members of the local community. Looping over 2.2 km, the route started and ended at the main gate of the campus.

## Seminar

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

### Riyadh International Book Fair honors Sheikh Zayed's legacy



The UAE was the Guest of Honor country at the Riyadh International Book Fair, held at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Centre from 14th to 24th March, 2018.

**A**s part of his visit to the Riyadh International Book Fair, Dr. Zaki Nusseibeh, UAE Minister of State, participated in a seminar entitled '2018: Year of Zayed', which shed light on the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, his visionary leadership and pioneering foreign policy.

The seminar, led by Saudi journalist Ibrahim Al-Helali, reviewed the deep-rooted UAE-Saudi relations established early on by the late Sheikh Zayed that encompassed the nations' common interests and their solidarity during challenging

times, highlighting their religious bond, brotherly ties and shared cultural heritage.

Dr. Nusseibeh went on to describe the late Sheikh Zayed as a true visionary who aspired to achieve peace, coexistence and cooperation between countries.

Characterised for his tolerance and respect for all, he favoured peaceful dialogue and reconciliation to resolve disputes and aimed to unite people from all walks of life to achieve happiness, well-being and prosperity for humanity.

He described Sheikh Zayed as a symbol of Arab unity and a leading force in establishing strong foreign relations among all Gulf States, highlighting his pivotal role in working with Saudi Arabia on the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). On a regional level, he sought to help resolve differences and strengthen relations between countries in the region through constructive interaction bringing cohesion and solidarity to the Arab world. The late Sheikh Zayed was determined to build strategic economic partnerships linked to global humanitarian principles,

## ذكري زايد تعيش في قلوب الملايين من البشر



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



Saudi attendees expressed their deep appreciation for the late Sheikh Zayed and the unforgettable impact he has had on the region's continued development.

in line with his dedication to philanthropy on many levels.

Following the seminar, Dr. Nusseibeh commented, "It is wonderful to witness firsthand the strong relationship enjoyed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates."

Nidal al-Masri, a representative from the Public Relations and Protocol Committee at the Riyadh International Book Fair, who attended the session, said that the late Sheikh Zayed has built in the UAE not only a great nation, but a model one, thanks to his

visionary leadership and wisdom. He added that the late Sheikh Zayed's story is one that must be diligently passed on to younger generations, to ensure that his landmark achievements remain the hearts and minds of people for years to come.

Several Saudi intellectuals, writers and journalists who attended the seminar expressed their delight at the UAE being named a guest of honour at the fair, particularly given that it coincides with the UAE's Year of Zayed. Saudi attendees expressed their deep appreciation

for the late Sheikh Zayed and the unforgettable impact he has had on the region's continued development.





## Record-breaking aerial projection screen offers visual tribute to Sheikh Zayed

**T**wo helicopters have towed a huge projection screen across the skies of Dubai in a record bid to help commemorate the birth centenary celebrations of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE.

Wasl Asset Management Group, one of the largest real estate development and management companies in Dubai, has broken a Guinness World Records title for the largest aerial projection screen in the sky, in celebration of the Year of Zayed 2018.

The record-breaking effort is part of Wasl's wider efforts to unite the country in commemorating the UAE's Founding Father. The new record, which was set by Wasl Group, saw a 300-foot

aerial screen soar across Dubai's iconic skyline towed by a Bell 212 Helicopter, while a second Bell 212 projected the video onto the screen using a combination of augmented reality tracking and live projection mapping, displaying a short film about 'Year of Zayed', and providing the public with an impressive visual tribute to the Founding Father's life and values.

The screen could be viewed from up to 3 kilometres away and had started its journey from Skydive Dubai before flying over the Dubai Coast and then inland to reach Zabeel Park passing over Wasl's latest project wasl1. The helicopters then hovered over Dubai Creek and back out to the coast landing back at Skydive Dubai after a flight duration of

approximately 90 minutes.

Hesham Al Qassim, CEO of Wasl Asset Management Group, said, "We are delighted to have celebrated the Year of Zayed 2018 in a memorable and ambitious way that captures the late Founding Father's pioneering spirit and strengthens Dubai's reputation as a leader in achieving world firsts."







## Emirati artists showcase their finest artwork to observe Year of Zayed

Leading UAE artists converged in Dubai on 20th March, 2018, evening to showcase some of their finest artwork in observance of the 'Year of Zayed'.

Some of the artwork included crafts on UAE coins and other paintings with the artwork related to the UAE's culture and tradition.

The event was officially inaugurated by Sheikha Dr. Hind Al Qassimi and organised by Sathar Al Karan, the proprietor of ArtUAE, in conjunction with Colors of Peace, Ambassador AurelaCuku, who is also the founder and CEO of Global Agency Mena, the brainchild behind Art Unity for Latin

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

A prominent upcoming Emirati artist, Latifa Ibrahim Ahmed disclosed that art has been her passion, having first ventured into painting world in 2005, after she got inspired from her various travelling itinerary.

Latifa has a vision of opening her own art gallery in the UAE and to provide art courses for inspired children with interest in painting and the arts.

Another interesting artist is Emirati Abdul Rauf who has

crafted two large artworks in resemblance to coins, dubbed as "coins of the world" project. His ambition is to participate in the Expo 2020 Dubai but in a unique way by offering a technologically advanced project, rotating paintings.

He developed the unique style of adaptive art 'rotating paintings', which is an innovative piece that can be turned to hang four different dimensions with a variety of options thus showcasing a new work of art on the wall, by simply rotating the paintings.

A guest artist Ahmed Cinar from Turkey also displayed some spectacular themed artisan carpets, that was a crowd-puller of the evening.

## Expedition

42 creating green communities

'Team Zayed' sends a message of light and hope to the world from Antarctica



Three environmentalists from Abu Dhabi have undertaken a voyage to Antarctica as part of the ClimateForce International Antarctic Expedition 2018 to learn about climate change and witness first-hand the impact of global warming on the continent.

**T**eam Zayed, made up of employees representing the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programme, put on the Zayed Solar Lights Show and lit up the Antarctic night using 100 solar lights, sending a message of unity, hope and action on Climate Change.

The team, aptly named Team Zayed, to mark the Year of Zayed, is part of the Climate Force International Antarctic Expedition that is currently on board the Ocean Endeavour for two weeks. Along with teams from over 20

countries, they are learning about climate change and witnessing first-hand the impact of global warming on the continent. The expedition was led by Sir Robert Swan, the first explorer to walk to the North and South poles, and ended on March 12th, 2018.

Braving the freezing conditions and in an act of gratitude to the visionary leadership of the country for their environmental stewardship, Team Zayed wrote, in solar lights, the names of the late Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and

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

The team also wrote the names of notable inspirational personalities in the UAE, namely H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region, and Chairman of the Emirates Red Crescent, the 27-year old serviceman who was recently given a hero's welcome home after being injured in Yemen during the UAE's effort to combat Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,



UPON THEIR return, Team Zayed will tour the UAE to explain the link between our daily actions in Khalidiya and Karama and the frozen landscapes of the Antarctica.

as well as Nourabint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development.

“Alongside other passionate environmentalists from around the world on this international expedition, we wanted to come together and also send a unified message in solar lights from Antarctica, a message of change. Global warming and plastics are the environmental challenges of our time – as a global community we need to stop, think, and act to come together and change our unsustainable lifestyles,” said Mariam Al Qassimi,

Communications Specialist at EAD and a member of Team Zayed.

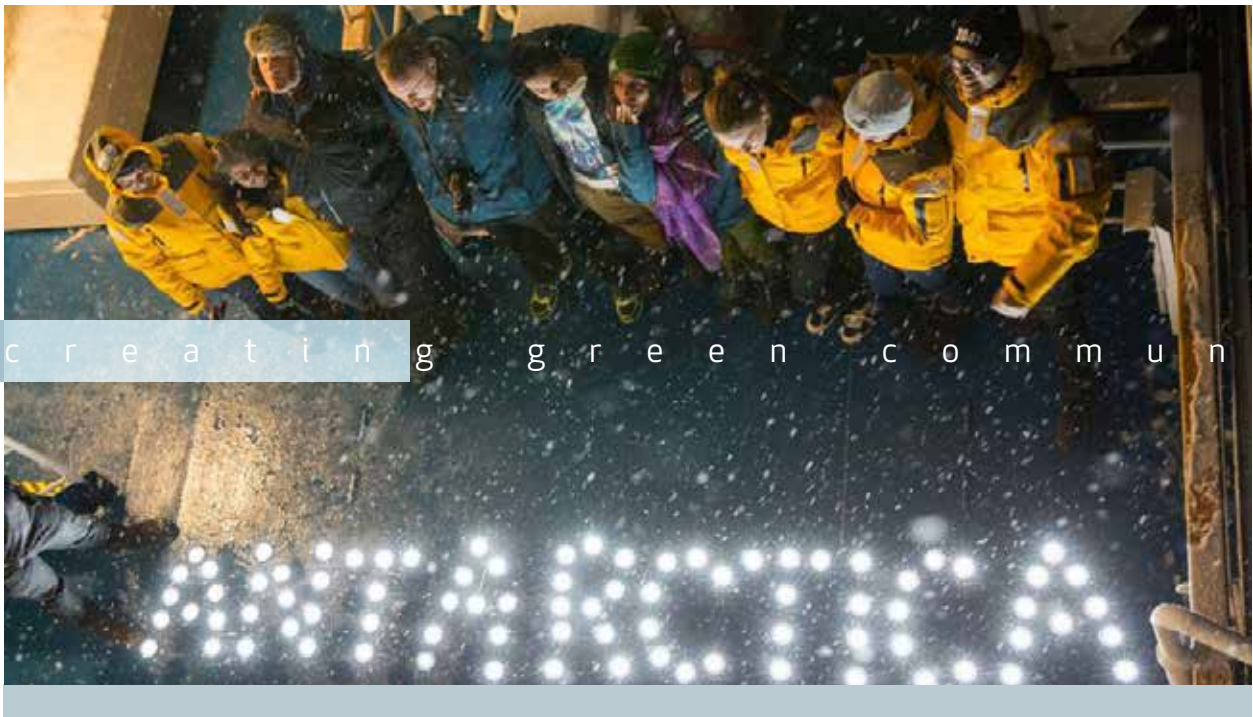
“We used 100 solar panels, purchased from a company that won the Zayed Future Energy Prize in 2015 and in a symbolic display of unity, we stood side by side with 20 other nationalities and sent a message to the world.

The message was: ‘Hi World - from Antarctica. Please listen: climate change and plastics are our challenge. Let’s change. All of us. Individuals and countries. Stop. Think. Act. Energise. Be

the Change. #ClimateForce’, said Rashed Al Zaabi, Scientist in Mammology, at EAD and a member of Team Zayed.

Winston Cowie, Marine Policy Manager at EAD, and a member of Team Zayed, said, “As we lit up the Antarctic night, one of our colleagues on the expedition, Inch Chua from Singapore, a talented musician, sang our message in the Antarctic night.

“We could hear whales surfacing as we sung, in union. It was one of those incredible unforgettable moments when time stood still”



Sir Robert Swan said, "Team Zayed has done a wonderful job in bringing everybody together for the Zayed Solar Lights Show in this display of unity and in this message of action. I am proud of all of them and we are grateful to EAD for sending the team here to the Antarctic.

"We are all ClimateForce Ambassadors, and we hope this message that we have sent to the world results in action - the time for the inconvenient truth is over, the time for the convenient solution is here."

Following the Zayed Solar Lights Show, Team Zayed gifted each of the 100 solar lights to their colleagues on the voyage - all of whom pledged their

commitment to take the solar light and make it burn bright with an environmental or community initiative in their respective countries - a celebration of the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed.

"These special lights that lit up the Antarctic sky will now travel to all parts of the world, igniting change and action," said Cowie.

"Given the depth of talented and passionate people on the Ocean Endeavour, we are excited to see the initiatives that will become a reality as a result."

Team Zayed crossed the treacherous Drake Passage from the Antarctic Peninsula, en route back to the UAE after a life-changing mission for all of them.





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

## Emirates completes fleet of ten commemorative aircraft for the 'Year of Zayed'

Emirates has completed the application of the specially-designed 'Year of Zayed' livery on ten of its aircraft. This tribute to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was first unveiled in November 2017 on the fuselage of Emirates' 100th A380 aircraft, and commemorates the 100th year of Sheikh Zayed's birth.

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline & Group, said: "The late Sheikh Zayed was a legendary leader, a true pioneer, and an inspirational figure.

"His legacy for sustainable development lives on in the spirit of the UAE. Emirates is proud to spread his universal message to

global audiences in airports and cities around the globe."

Five Airbus A380s and five Boeing 777-300ERs with the 'Year of Zayed' livery have circled the globe on over 1,500 flights to date, and will continue to carry its message of inspiration from the UAE's late founding father throughout 2018.

The "Year of Zayed" is a year-long tribute to Sheikh Zayed's remarkable legacy and values which have shaped the formation of the UAE.

Through the pillars of wisdom, respect, sustainability and human development, the inspirational leader has created a lasting vision of prosperity,

determination and tolerance – attributes that remain strongly embedded in UAE culture.

Each bespoke decal covers an area of 480square metres on the A380 and 312 square metres on the Boeing 777-300ER.

Since November 2017, the ten aircraft have travelled to 90 destinations across six continents including Rome, Sydney, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires and Accra.

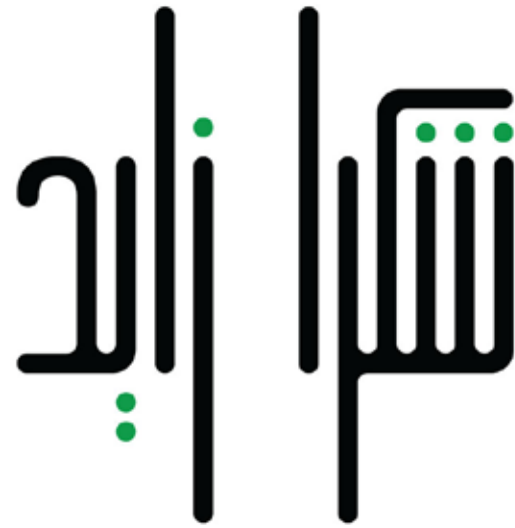
The aircraft have collectively flown more than 4 million kilometres. Dedicated Emirates staff at the Emirates Engineering Aircraft Appearance Centre spent a total of 119 days to install the decals.



## Initiative

46

Tamouh Investments launches 'ShukranZayed' initiative



شكراً زايد  
Shukran Zayed

Abu Dhabi-based developer Tamouh Investments launches social media initiative to show appreciation for the late Sheikh Zayed and to celebrate the united and diverse country he established.

Communities across the UAE are being urged to come together to say "ShukranZayed" by sending their messages of gratitude to commemorate a century since the birth of the founding father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Abu Dhabi-based developer Tamouh Investments has launched the social media initiative using the hashtag #ShukranZayed to show appreciation for the late Sheikh Zayed and to celebrate the united and diverse country he established.

Tamouh has commissioned renowned Emirati artist Ashwaq Abdulla to create an art piece dedicated to the founding father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed.

Ashwaq, who works mainly with abstract paintings and collage, was first recognised for her artistic talent at the age of 7, when she won a local art competition. Her work currently combines charcoal, pastels, oils and recycled materials.

The art piece will be created using the 'Thank You' messages garnered from the community

through the #ShukranZayed initiative on dedicated social media platforms and will be digitally projected at Cityscape Abu Dhabi.

The art piece will ultimately be installed at the heart of Tamouh's master development, Reem Downtown in Reem Island.

Tamouh's #ShukranZayed initiative gives Emiratis and expatriates a platform to express their gratitude to the late Sheikh Zayed for the individual experiences they have had in the UAE, and for the noble values he



TAMOUH'S #ShukranZayed initiative gives Emiratis and expatriates a platform to express their gratitude to the late Sheikh Zayed.

inspired in others, including those of wisdom, respect, sustainability and human development.

The online 'Thank You' messages will be shared with other social media users using the trending hashtag.

This year has been officially declared the 'Year of Zayed' by the President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The initiative has been embraced by individuals, communities and companies across the country.

Its popularity is reflective of the

unique standing Sheikh Zayed holds in the hearts of Emiratis and residents.

Ghanem Al Mansoori, CEO of Tamouh, said, "Genuine ideas such as the hashtag #ShukranZayed lets a diverse mix of people the opportunity to come together and celebrate the UAE's unity and diversity.

"The #ShukranZayed and the 'Year of Zayed' initiatives are aimed at helping spread the deeply rooted values and traditions that have been embedded in the fabric of the UAE by the late Sheikh Zayed."

Tamouh, whose developments include Marina Square, City of Lights, and Paragon Bay Mall on Reem Island, will take part in this year's Cityscape Abu Dhabi event at ADNEC.

At the show, which will run from 17th-19th April, the developer will unveil a digital form of the unique art piece dedicated to the UAE's founding father. The digital representation of the piece will take pride of place at Tamouh's stand at Cityscape before the actual piece is installed in the Reem Downtown community on Reem Island later this year.

Arab Water Day

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

Suqia plays key role in enhancing UAE's global efforts to address water challenges



In addition to providing potable water to the needy, Suqia also aims to find innovative and sustainable solutions, through Research and Development (R&D) efforts to water scarcity and water desalination.

Under the umbrella of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, MBRGI, the UAE Water Aid Foundation, Suqia, is playing a key role in promoting the UAE's global efforts to address the challenges of water scarcity.

It does so by providing safe drinking water to vulnerable communities suffering from water scarcity and pollution, stressed Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Suqia, in his statement for Arab Water Day 2018, observed on 3rd March.

“Water is one of the basic needs of humanity and is a reason to achieve sustainable development.

“Arab Water Day, which is celebrated annually by the Arab world on 3rd March, is a public invitation to communities, governments and responsible entities in the Arab region to work together to ensure the sustainability of water resources in the region.

“It also aims to combine the region's efforts to effectively manage these resources and maximise the economic, social and

environmental benefits of water in Arab countries, as well as to raise awareness about key water issues and the challenges facing the region,” Al Tayer said.

“Suqia's vision supports the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 of the United Nations, UN, that has set the priorities and goals of global development, most notably the sixth objective, which is to ensure the availability of water and sanitation services for all.

“At Suqia, we are committed to achieving this objective through





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THE UAE has established its role in supporting the international efforts to address the challenges facing humanity.

joint work and ongoing co-operation with responsible local and international organisations.

“During the past three years, over eight million people have benefitted from Suqia’s projects in 25 countries,” he added.

Al Tayer noted that as well as providing safe drinking water to the needy, Suqia aims to find innovative and sustainable solutions to the issues of water scarcity and desalination through research and development, to support the UAE’s efforts to transform itself into a knowledge-

based economy that focusses on modern technology and innovation.

Suqia also oversees the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award, which is worth U\$1 million and was launched by the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to encourage research institutions, individuals and innovators from around the world to find sustainable and innovative solutions to water scarcity issues and promote the

use of solar energy, he further added.

“We aspire to help create a world where clean water is available to all, and where problems turn into possibilities and opportunities.

“Today, we reaffirm our commitment to continue our humanitarian and volunteer work and the cultural and social legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan during the Year of Zayed, and to help secure the availability of clean water for the people of the world,” he said in conclusion.

## Summit

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

### UAE to host first-ever Green Business Summit 2018



Senior government officials, business leaders, policymakers, scientists, and other summit attendees will have the opportunity to hear from industry leaders who are at the forefront of the sustainability agenda across the world.

The Economist Events, part of the global English-language weekly newspaper The Economist, is hosting the first ever Green Business Summit in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on April 17th, 2018. The Summit will focus on the effect of economic growth on the natural environment, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and how businesses and the private sector can align growth with sustainable development.

Sponsored by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) and co-sponsored by the Department of

Economic Development (DED), the event will be a knowledge-sharing and networking forum for people interested in business operations, environmental conservation and the development of future green industries. Internationally-recognised experts will convene in Abu Dhabi to discuss issues in policymaking, climate finance (such as impact investing), and how sustainability can complement the region's core industries.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency – Abu

Dhabi said, "The timeliness of this summit could not be more opportune in many ways. This year we are celebrating Year of Zayed that marks 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE. He was the founder of the Environment Agency and the first to care for the environment by enacting laws and regulations to protect its biodiversity."

"But law and regulations are not enough. We need a rapid transformation of our economy to a green economy model



THE GREEN Business Summit 2018 will run from 8:00am to 5:30pm on 17th April at the Rosewood Hotel, Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi.

that decouples growth from its environmental impact, which is resource efficient and less polluting, is competitive and knowledge-based and provides a platform to develop green technology, products and services. Achieving these ambitious goals and transforming our economy will not happen on its own. We need a collective impact effort driven by a partnership of the different sectors of the economy - government, businesses, academia, advocacy bodies and various other communities. We expect that the Green Business Summit provides

a platform to stimulate cross-sector collaboration” added Al Mubarak.

Khalifa Bin Salem Al Mansouri, the Undersecretary of the Department of Economic Development – Abu Dhabi (ADDED), said: “Our participation reflects the Abu Dhabi government’s desire to further develop the Emirate’s position as a regional hub through the achievement of sustainable economic growth.

“Abu Dhabi is committed to protecting the environment and

enhancing efforts to support the blue economy by implementing strategic plans to reduce pollution and the impact of climate change.”

Gregg Carlstrom, Middle East Correspondent for The Economist, said: “We are delighted to be hosting the Green Business Summit in Abu Dhabi. The Summit serves as a platform that will deliver compelling dialogue on sustainability, the role of the finance industry in encouraging green investments, stimulating eco-innovation and incorporating international policies in successful sustainability plans.

## MOCCAЕ warns against behaviours that threaten UAE biodiversity



### [At least two dozen invasive plants, animals, and other organisms are harming local biodiversity](#)

**T**he Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCAЕ, has warned against some behaviours that raise environmental concerns and threaten native biodiversity. These behaviours have led to the introduction of invasive species to local ecosystems, posing a threat to indigenous flora and fauna.

Invasive species that are introduced by humans outside of their natural distribution areas can have adverse impact on biodiversity, ecosystems, human health and the economy.

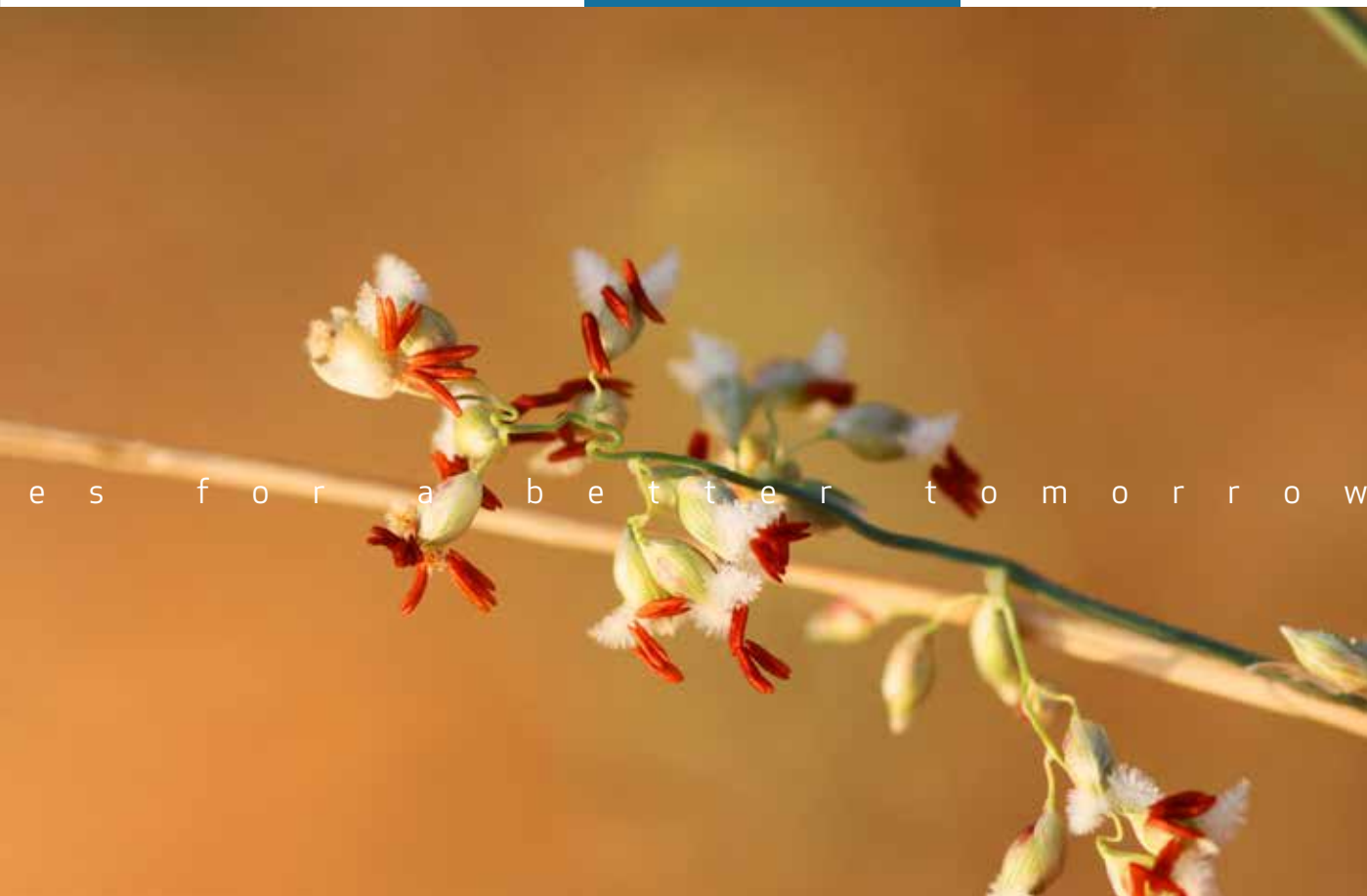
A survey that was carried out as part of the National Programme for the Sustainability of Wildlife revealed the existence of 24 invasive plants, animals, and other organisms in the UAE.

MOCCAЕ is attributing the alarming number to the irresponsible behaviours of some individuals or businesses who lose the alien species in their possession, by either an accidental escape of the species or deliberate release of unwanted pets. Importing and exporting contaminants across borders is another pathway for invasive

species into the country in addition to sneaking them in by irresponsible individuals.

While some alien species have made their way to the UAE intentionally for the purposes of aquaculture, biological control, food security and agriculture, these species pose no danger as they are kept under the control and supervision of MOCCAЕ – as a legislative body - and local government entities as executive bodies.

Hiba Al Shehhi, Acting Director of Biodiversity Department at



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TO ENSURE the threat of invasive species is addressed properly, the UAE leadership has approved and launched the National Programme for the Sustainability of Wildlife.

MOCCA, revealed that MOCCA teams are collaborating with experts in the field and competent local government entities to devise an integrated federal plan to combat invasive species. The plan will categorise species based on their risk level and set actions in motion to eradicate and control them, as well as recover and restore local ecosystems.

She added, "The world's biodiversity is under a multitude of pressures and is experiencing radical changes as a result of population growth, urbanisation, environmental pollution, climate

change and the spread of invasive species. Although in comparison to climate change and land-use change, the introduction of invasive species may not be as threatening to biodiversity, but it still is a factor that we cannot afford to ignore, particularly as more invasive species are making their way to the local environment due to growing inland and sea movement of people and goods."

Elaborating on the adverse impacts of invasive species, Al Shehhi said, "They compete with native species over resources - soil, water and food - as well

as breeding sites, which leads to the extinction or population reduction of the native species. They can cause a great economic and environmental harm as alien pests and pathogens can damage the production of agriculture and fisheries. In addition, these invaders can cause immense harm to human health as they carry and spread diseases, such as malaria and bird flu. And, they can damage the aesthetic appeal of the city, as they leave their droppings and set their nests everywhere."

UNEP's fifth Global Environment Outlook Report shows that the

Initiative

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

Coral Gardens to be set up in three emirates in UAE



The Ministry of Climate Change has cultivated 24 species of corals as part of the three-phase initiative to help ensure a substantial increase in fish stocks and their sustainability.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) has started the implementation of the first phase of its initiative to cultivate three coral gardens over a total area of 850 square meters in Ras al-Khaimah, Umm Al Qaiwain, and Ajman.

As part of the initiative, MOCCA has succeeded in cultivating 24 species of corals and is working on the rehabilitation of ecosystems to provide a natural habitat and an incubator for several marine species, aiming for a substantial increase in fish stocks and

ensuring their sustainability.

Commenting on the initiative, Saleh Al Geziry, Director General of Ajman Tourism Development Department, said: "The UAE presents a world-class model of environment protection and natural resources sustainability.

"Our environmental commitment was instilled in us by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose concern for the environment was highly acclaimed."

Al Geziry indicated that

MOCCA's initiative to cultivate coral gardens in these emirates, including Ajman, spreads environmental awareness among the general public in line with the vision of the UAE leadership and is part of the nationwide drive towards preserving natural resources and mitigating climate change impacts, to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations.

Salah Abdullah Al Raisi, Director of the Fisheries Sustainability Department at MOCCA, said that the initiative is part of the Ministry's strategy for



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THE INITIATIVE contributes to safeguarding biodiversity in the country and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the sequestration of carbon dioxide.

2017-2021, which aims to achieve the sustainability of natural ecosystems, conserving biodiversity and reducing the impacts of climate change.

The initiative contributes to safeguarding biodiversity in the country, and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the air through the sequestration of carbon dioxide – the initiative supports the country in achieving the goal of sustainability as outlined in the UAE Vision 2021.

Al Raisi noted that through such efforts to protect biodiversity

in the country, the Ministry underlines its commitment to collaborating with its partners and stakeholders in the public and private sectors to promote ecotourism and consolidate the UAE's position as one of the main destinations for such tourism on the global map.

Dr. Saif Mohammed Al Ghais, CEO of Ras al-Khaimah Environmental Protection and Development Authority (EPDA-RAK), said the initiative to cultivate coral gardens are aimed at preserving fish stocks and ensuring their sustainability.

He further added that EPDA managed to cultivate 650 species of corals and installed 703 artificial caves, as part of its strategy to enhance marine biodiversity in the emirate.

MOCCA announced last month the launch of two environmental initiatives for 2018 that has been declared in the Year of Zayed.

The first initiative includes planting 30,000 mangrove trees, and the second to cultivate coral gardens, both geared to developing the coastal and marine areas in the UAE.

Conservation

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

Wild Life, Wild Livelihoods: Involving communities in sustainable wildlife management



New research shows that involving local people is critical to successful conservation as current approaches to wildlife management often fail to take into account the needs and rights of local communities.

UN Environment, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED), launched a report proposing more action and stronger community voice on approaches to involve indigenous peoples and local communities in the fight against wildlife crime, including the illegal wildlife trade.

'Wildlife, Wild livelihoods' outlines eight actions points to improve the community-based approach, ranging from better

incentives and developing a better understanding of local customs and traditions, to involving local leaders in decision-making.

"Local communities are on the front line and have the most to lose from the illegal wildlife trade," Erik Solheim, head of UN Environment said. "We have to engage local communities at every level to protect our most precious natural assets against people seeking to make a profit from wildlife crimes."

It further outlines the opportunities and constraints

for communities to participate in the various key international policy forums that influence wildlife management, and takes a critical look at the increasingly militarized and top-down approach to combat illegal wildlife trade.

"Relying on top-down approaches to wildlife management is not working," said Rosie Cooney, Chair of IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group. "We must listen to the voices of local people and avoid marginalizing local communities to ensure our conservation work





THE THEME of this year's World Wildlife Day is "Big cats - predators under threat."

is effective and sustainable. It is local communities that personally bear the costs of human wildlife conflict. Their engagement is key to protecting people and wildlife alike."

Dilys Roe, Principal researcher and Head of Biodiversity at IIED and joint author, said: "For too long, those in the best position to preserve wildlife — local people — have been left out of key decision-making and missed out on crucial benefits. It is vital policies that foster and recognise communities' rights and needs are adopted in partnership and

implemented. Africa's wildlife will have a more hopeful future when governments start supporting local people and listening to them. Then they can help protect the wildlife we all treasure."

The recommendations outlined in the report, and hands-on ways of increasing opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities to participate in promoting more effective and equitable wildlife conservation strategies was also at the center of the first meeting of a Working Group of CITES on Rural Communities, held in Nairobi,

Kenya in early March this year.

The report was released on the eve of World Wildlife Day, observed annually on March 3rd.



Awards

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

Twelve Asian Entrepreneurs awarded for forward-thinking environmental solutions



Winners of the Asia Pacific Low Carbon Lifestyles Challenge received awards in three categories: Low carbon mobility, plastic waste, and energy efficiency.

**T**welve environmentalists in the Asia-Pacific region have won US\$10,000 each to support their energy-efficient, low-waste, and low-carbon business ideas.

The winners of the Asia Pacific Low Carbon Lifestyles Challenge are from China, Bhutan, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

As well as the start-up funding, the winners, selected across three categories of mobility, plastic waste, and energy efficiency also

receive mentoring and support. UN Environment's Director for the Asia-Pacific region, DechenTsering, said, "From plastic waste to climate change, we who live in Asia and the Pacific are confronting environmental challenges face-to-face almost daily. The natural ingenuity we find across our region is the key to solving these problems."

The winning project address a variety of sustainability challenges across the region, offering innovative solutions for local, regional or even global environmental issues.

**Plastic waste**

In the plastic waste category, Samoan national Angelica Salele got awarded for her project producing reusable cotton feminine hygiene products. Disposable feminine sanitary pads contribute to household waste across the globe and put a strain on the Pacific island's waste management systems. The cotton pads will dramatically reduce the cost and waste impacts of female hygiene products.

Pratvadee (Bonnie) Sananvatananont won in the same category, for her idea to add a



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

plastic cutlery opt-out system to Thailand's popular food delivery service food panda. If only 10% of orders opt out, that would mean the service removes 276,000 sets of plastic cutlery in a year.

Pamela Nicole Mejia from the Philippines tackled one of the biggest polluters in the world with her ideas: the fashion industry. Phinix is a textile upcycling startup that collects textile wastes and transforms them into higher valued products such as footwear, fashion accessories and lifestyle pieces, in lieu of leaving them to be discarded in landfills.

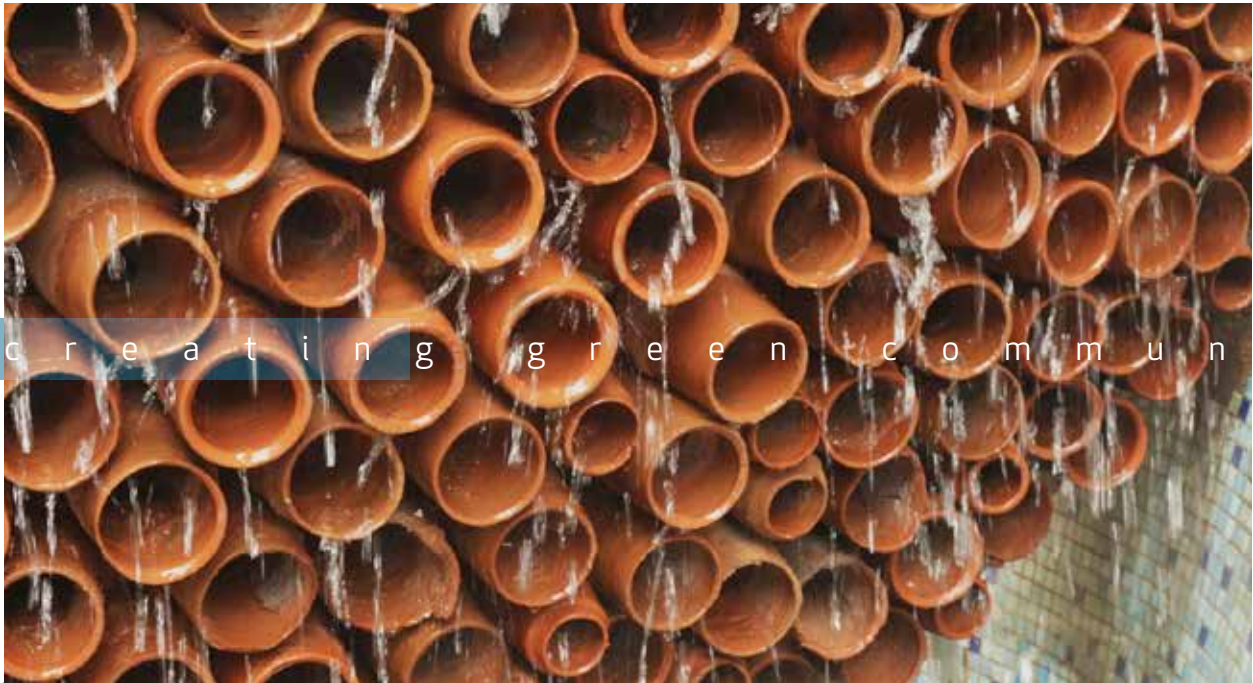
Indonesia's AchmadSolikhin was awarded for his technology, BIOTIC, a plastic product based on recycled and bio-based plastic.

#### **Energy efficiency**

In Energy Efficiency, Mohammed Saquib from Pakistan received an award for setting up Modulus Tech, an organization that produces ultra-energy efficient, low-cost modular flat-pack housing built from recycled materials. In the Philippines, Mark-Anthony Villaflor is taking a sustainable and award-winning look at the tourism industry. By using his property as a solar panel

guinea pig, he will gather baseline data on energy efficiency, look at the fuel costs of local businesses, and help them convert to renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint of El Nido.

An environmental architect from Thimphu, Bhutan, was awarded for his ideas on improving energy efficiency across the country. DeependraPourel is planning to install smart energy meters in homes, offices, and hotels to provide building owners insight into their energy use. His startup will also leverage his architectural skills to help building owners



reduce energy use through behavior change, efficient appliances and architectural redesign.

Monish Siripurapu, an architect based in New Delhi, received an award for a biomimicry cooling system inspired by the structure of a beehive. Customized through advanced computational analysis and modern calibration techniques, the device passes water through earthen cones that facilitate evaporative cooling, using little energy and zero ozone depleting or carbon-intensive refrigerants.

### **Low Carbon Mobility**

Hassam Ud-din set out to improve the efficiency of roads in Pakistan, where most cars

and trucks on the road operate at 30% capacity. His startup increases access to affordable, efficient mobility through an app called RASAI, which allows for peer-to-peer sharing of a vehicle's extra space and seats, offering inter-city ridesharing and freight-shipping capabilities.

Sri Lankan national Sasiranga De Silva won an award in the Low Carbon Mobility category for bringing the iconic tuktuk into the eVehicle market. His startup is developing an affordable conversion kit that will allow tuk-tuk drivers to convert to an electric powertrain that will generate zero tailpipe emissions.

Shutong Liu's venture aims to produce biodiesel from

waste cooking oil. Biofuel produced from cooking oil is interchangeable with diesel fuel, so there is no need for vehicles to convert engines to use it. Liu, based in China, aims to connect the source of waste oil, namely restaurant chains, with final users to build a circular economy loop. Lathika Chandra Mouli, also based in China, aims to facilitate transactions between building owners with solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations and drivers, through her business Energo Labs. As the price of electricity in most Asia-Pacific countries is cheaper than the cost of fuel, such a solution can help encourage electric vehicle adoption and simultaneously incentivize homeowners to install solar panels.



## International Solar Alliance set up to advance solar energy

**O**n the occasion of the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Adnan Z. Amin, and the Interim Director General of ISA, Upendra Tripathy signed a Joint Declaration to deepen the cooperation between the two organisations to accelerate solar energy deployment.

“Driven by remarkable cost declines, innovative policies and new business models, solar energy has emerged as the fastest growing renewable energy worldwide,” said Amin.

“IRENA estimates that solar must account for at least 35 per

cent of global power capacity by 2050 to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate,” Amin added. “In this context, IRENA stands ready to work with ISA and its members to scale-up solar energy deployment as a means to expanding affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access, as well as to addressing climate and energy security concerns.”

“The International Solar Alliance has a well-articulated goal to facilitate the mobilisation of USD 1 trillion of capital to rapidly accelerate the adoption of solar energy all over the world,” said Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director-General of the International Solar Alliance. “While solar is fast becoming

one of the most cost-effective ways to generate new power and deliver energy access, to deploy fast enough, complementarity must exist between our work and the broader renewable energy mandate and development tools established by IRENA. This fusion of capabilities will help to catalyse solar development in line with the goals set out under the Paris Agreement.”

Driven by rapid advances in technology and economies of scale, the cost of electricity from solar photovoltaics decreased by almost 70 per cent between 2010 and 2016. IRENA estimates that average cost of electricity from solar photovoltaics can decrease by further 60 per cent in the coming decade.

## Global electric car industry faces looming supply shortage of natural resources



Governments and carmakers require sound strategies to overcome the recycling and natural resource constraints of producing batteries for electric cars and managing their full CO<sub>2</sub> lifecycle footprints.

The global electric vehicle (EV) market is on the cusp of exponential growth as it aligns with government mandates to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by replacing combustion engine vehicles with cleaner alternatives. Yet, as carmakers gear up to electrify their fleets, they face challenges to secure supplies of raw materials used for battery production and to prove the environmental benefits of a lifecycle perspective, according to a recent report produced by independent research organization A.T. Kearney Energy Transition Institute.

Given global environmental pressures and governments' ambitions to remain sustainable, the electric car and battery markets are poised for massive growth.

The Middle East region, and particularly the GCC is one of the world's most receptive new energy vehicle markets, due to strong government support around the region and growing customer acceptance. As an example, Dubai has firmly pledged its commitment to increase the number of electric vehicles on its roads. With plans for have

40,000 EVs registered by 2030 the emirate has introduced a host of incentives to meet this target, including free public parking for EVs and Salik exemptions.

However, the report highlights the need to look at the holistic life-cycle management of EVs to ensure the desired reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> footprint is indeed achieved. This will require nations to consider which energy sources are used to charge electric car batteries.

According to the report, cobalt is in particularly short supply



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DUBAI HAS firmly pledged its commitment to increase the number of electric vehicles on its roads.

globally and reserves could be depleted completely by the time 300 million EVs are produced—a modest proportion compared to the 1.2 billion cars on roads today. In addition, global lithium production has risen 7 percent a year since 2018, but to keep up with demand, miners need to accelerate production to more than 9 percent a year. Rising demand and tight supplies have also led to price increases.

“Electric car batteries rely on a host of rare materials—from lithium and nickel, to cobalt. Battery makers around the world

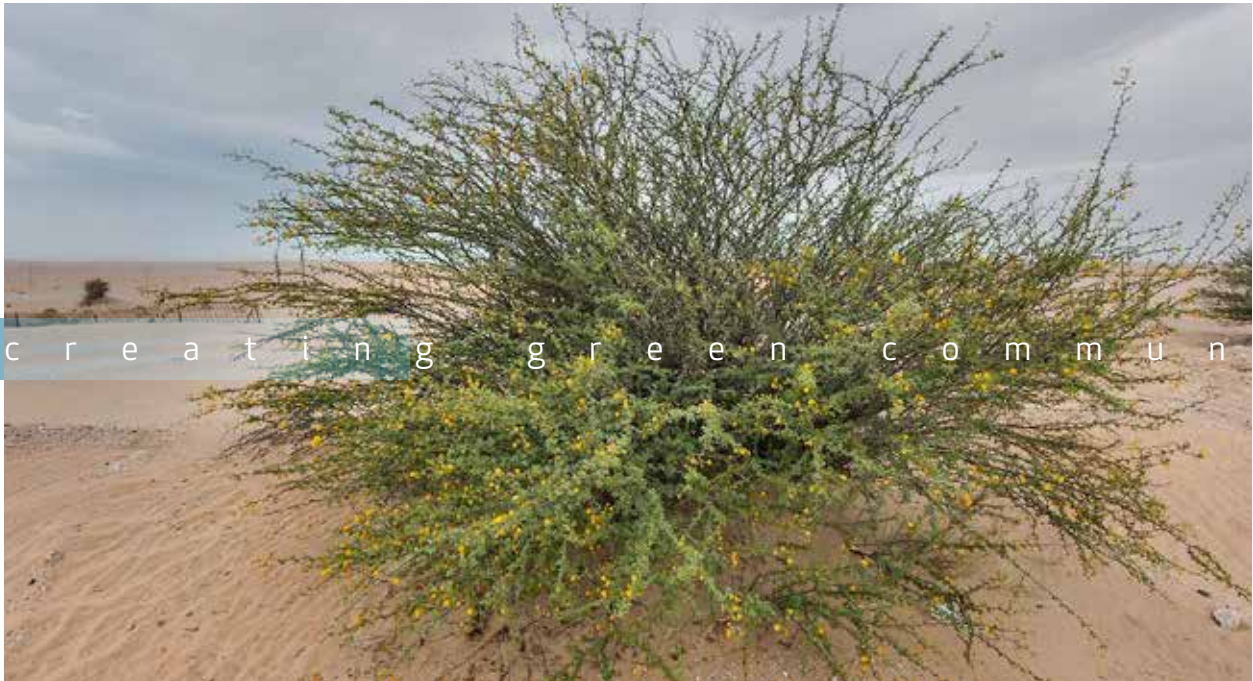
are struggling to secure supplies of these key ingredients as demand outstrips supply. This undoubtedly places pressure on carmakers, so the hunt for alternative technologies is on,” said Romain Debarre, managing director, A.T. Kearney Energy Transition Institute.

**MoU to advance sustainable development initiatives**

Majid Al Futtaim, the leading shopping mall, communities, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with

the United Nations Environment Programme to collaborate in areas that will advance sustainable development initiatives and positively impact the environment.

The partnership concentrates on much-needed efforts to ensure a sustainable future by focusing on developing, implementing and monitoring collaborative activities in several areas including resource and energy efficiency, green building and construction, food waste, sustainability reporting and sustainable development.



numbers of invasive alien species continue to increase. Data from Europe show the number has increased by 76 percent since 1970, a pattern that is likely to be similar on other continents. “According to another study, invasive alien species were a factor in more than half of vertebrate extinctions, and the sole cause of 20 percent. Invasive alien species have large economic costs, estimated by one study to total US\$1.4 trillion annually,” Al Shehhi explained.

The UAE has paid utmost attention to preserving the environment and protecting its natural resources and biodiversity since it was established by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. To

ensure the threat of invasive species is addressed properly, the UAE leadership has approved and launched the National Programme for the Sustainability of Wildlife.

Al Shehhi noted that the programme cooperated with experts from the International Union for Conservation of Nature to put forth UAE-specific checklists of invasive species, as part of the Union’s Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species, GRIIS. GRIIS helped identify and prioritise invasive alien species in the UAE, cast light on the importance of improved management of the UAE’s ecosystems from intrusion by foreign plant, animal and microbial life, and provided

scientists with the data needed to develop systems and products to mitigate such intrusions.







## All-New 2018 Nissan LEAF Named '2018 World Green Car of the Year'

The all-new 2018 Nissan LEAF, the world's best-selling electric vehicle, was named the "2018 World Green Car" at the 2018 New York International Auto Show. LEAF is the icon of Nissan Intelligent Mobility, the company's vision for changing how cars are powered, driven and integrated into society.

The first all-electric vehicle to win the World Green Car award since the category's inception in 2016, the 2018 Nissan LEAF has been reinvented for its second generation. The new Nissan LEAF combines greater range with a dynamic new design and the latest Nissan Intelligent Mobility features including ProPILOT Assist, e-Pedal, automatic

emergency braking and more.

"We're very proud that since Nissan LEAF launched in 2010, we've been able to put more than 300,000 zero-emission electric vehicles on the road worldwide, helping to reduce carbon footprints around the globe," said Daniele Schillaci, Executive Vice President, Global Marketing and Sales, Zero Emission Vehicle and Battery Business; Chairman of Management Committee for Japan/A&O (Japan, Asia, Oceania Business); Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.

The 2018 Nissan LEAF rose to the top among a list of five initial category entries and was the stand-alone EV in the running. Jurors considered the vehicle's overall environmental impact

including tailpipe emissions and fuel consumption upon selecting the overall winner.

### **Nissan's e-POWER technology wins environmental award**

Nissan's e-POWER electric powertrain technology, which helped make the Nissan Note Japan's best-selling compact car last year, has won a prestigious Japanese environmental award for its contributions to reducing CO2 emissions.

The Energy Conservation Center Japan (ECCJ), an organization backed by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, awarded e-POWER its Chairman's Prize as part of the Energy Conservation Grand Prize Awards for fiscal 2017.



# Green Flash



## Climate Migrants Have No Rights

The legal rights of refugees were defined under the Refugee Convention (1951/67) well before recognizing climate change as a major force creating refugee crises. A refugee was defined as someone who is facing a well-founded fear of being persecuted in his/her country for any political, religious or racial reasons.

But the global community has not yet universally acknowledged the existence of climate migrants, as they are not legally considered refugees and consequently have no legal rights. There are no global agreements to help millions of people who are displaced by natural disasters every year.

According to a UN report, an average of 26.4 million people per year were displaced by climate- or weather-related disasters during the period of 2008-2015, and these trends are likely to get worse. With each one-degree increase in temperature, the air's moisture-carrying capacity increases by 7 percent, fueling increasingly severe storms. Sea levels may rise by as much as three feet by the year 2100, submerging coastal areas and inhabited islands.

Climate change should be treated as an ethical and social issue, especially by countries that have contributed the most to global warming. International law should be modified to provide a legal status to environmental refugees on the basis of "Climate Justice" which is included in the Paris Accord.

Moreover, environmental refugees are not only those who move between countries. The internal displacement of populations due to environmental disasters is of great significance and is causing tremendous social and political unrest. Internal migrants mostly move from rural areas, hard hit by drought, flooding or crop failure, to cities where they seek opportunities for food, education and jobs.

Experts estimate that climate change is likely to displace 150 - 300 million people globally by the year 2050. A recent World Bank report estimates that around 140 million people in three densely-populated regions might have to migrate within their countries by 2050 due to climate change impact. These include around 86 million migrants in Sub-saharan Africa, 40 million in South Asia and 17 million in Latin America.

However, the report also indicated that there is a chance now for governments to act seriously and promptly to limit greenhouse gas emissions in time and develop plans to help populations in vulnerable areas. This action is predicted to reduce the number of migrants by more than 70%.

Cities should take steps to cope with the increasing rate of displacement by improving opportunities for education, training and jobs. The World Bank report offers case studies of how governments and non-governmental organizations can plan effectively to help populations live sustainably in rural areas, and on how to help migrants survive in urban areas.

Climate migrants are crying for legal rights to get help in all aspects of life without any discrimination. Please act now.

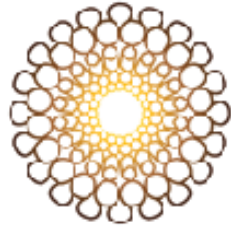
**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**  
**Chief Technical Advisor**  
**Zayed International Foundation for the Environment**



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



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