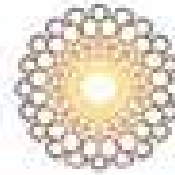


JULY 2018

Society & Environment

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EXPO 2020 إكسبو 2020

المعرض الدولي للمنتجات والخدمات
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



'Zayed, a role model for humanitarian assistance'
UAE marks Zayed Humanitarian Work Day on 19th Ramadan

Dubai Police and Zayed Foundation unveil 'Zayed Centennial' in Khartoum, Sudan



Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home

Chairman's Message

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

3



Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

The UAE was the world's largest donor of official development aid last year, relative to its national income, for the fifth consecutive year, according to a report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

With a total contribution of Dh19.32 billion of developmental aid in 2017, the UAE spent 1.31 per cent of its gross national income on foreign developmental aid — almost twice the global target of 0.7 per cent set by the United Nations.

The UAE's legacy of supporting international development efforts and responding to global crises stems from the vision and aspirations of our wise leadership to support and assist needy people and is a commitment to the values of benevolence and culture of giving firmly established by the Founding Father Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

These founding principles are embodied in Zayed Humanitarian Work Day, named after him and which carry special significance this year as it falls in the Year of Zayed, the centennial anniversary of his birth.

It was Sheikh Zayed who established the UAE on the path to a humanitarian journey of giving. It is indeed gratifying to note that the UAE's humanitarian assistance, including long-term aid for refugees and displaced people, contributed to saving lives, reducing suffering, and maintaining and protecting human dignity, during and after crises and emergency situations. Through his actions, Sheikh Zayed exemplified the spirit of giving and assisted all those in need regardless of race or religion.

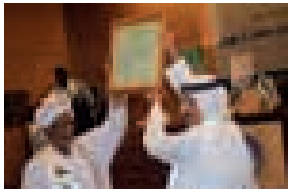
Sheikh Zayed had once said: "We believe that the benefit of the fortune granted to us by God should spread to cover our brothers and friends." It is heartening that under the wise leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Zayed's spirit of philanthropy and generous legacy of giving has been kept alive to this day.

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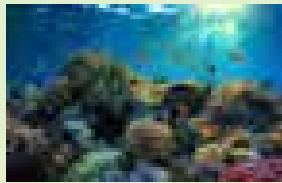


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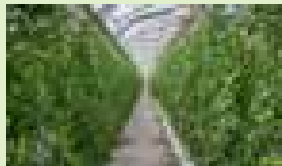
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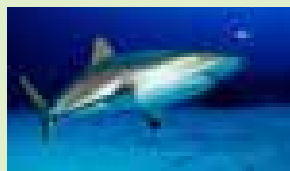
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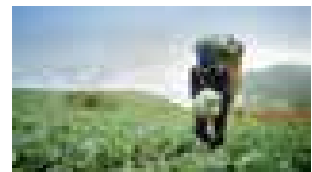
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“There is no glory without the glory of the country and its citizens. We have to be proud of our forefathers, who were able to face the harshness of life with a strong will and dedication to shape a better collective future.”

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Se

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

From the **Managing Editor**



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

As we enter the second half of the Year of Zayed - marked officially by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the Founding Father of the Nation - it is evident that the late Sheikh Zayed's pioneering excellence in divergent fields continues to be a symbol of pride for the UAE and an inspiration for leaders across the globe.

A voice for modernism, Sheikh Zayed was a visionary leader who built a solid foundation for the country's future. It was his belief in pursuing development that meets the needs of the present and future generations, that led to his holistic vision for the sustainable development

of the UAE. As such, I believe there is no better time to expand on the Founding Father's vision of environmental sustainability and to celebrate his legacy by taking it worldwide than in the Year of Zayed.

Since the beginning of the year, and through a collaboration between Dubai Police and the Zayed Foundation and in my capacity as Director of Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy, and Secretary General of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, I have been able to empower the missions of both the Academy and the Zayed Foundation by carrying forward the late Sheikh Zayed's extraordinary environmental legacy through local and global events that have permeated all ages and sections of society.

To fulfil the objectives of the 2018 Year of Zayed initiative, our collaborative efforts have led to creating awareness on Sheikh Zayed's stellar principles in environmental conservation to high-ranking dignitaries and officials in India, Malaysia, Egypt, Sudan, and locally at Al Falah University in Dubai. The worldwide response to this initiative has been overwhelming and we look forward to furthering this cause through the creative use of social media, smart applications, and through our publications.

Going ahead, we now look forward to further promoting Sheikh Zayed's role as a significant force for sustainability issues on the global centrestage.

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'Zayed, a role model for humanitarian assistance'



The Zayed Humanitarian Work Day is a milestone in the history of the UAE, as well as an occasion to remember the humanitarian achievements of the UAE's diplomacy and its assistance to the people of other countries.

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, has said that the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is a milestone in the history of the UAE, as he was an exceptional leader who fulfilled the hopes of the Emirati people for overall development.

In her speech marking the annual Zayed Humanitarian Work Day on 19th Ramadan, she asserted that

the memory of Sheikh Zayed will always remain in the hearts of the Emirati and Arab people.

Sheikha Fatima affirmed that the nation's partnership with women is among the priorities of the wise leadership since the era of Sheikh Zayed, as they realised, at an early stage, the fundamental role of women in the UAE's development. They also launched programmes that aim to reinforce the national character of women, she added. Sheikha Fatima went on to note the Founding Father's directives that created a shift towards supporting women's development

and empowerment, while highlighting the nation's progress in global competitiveness indexes, particularly in women's development arenas.

"He encouraged and supported me to help empower women and motivate them to pursue their education. He also established the relevant organisations responsible for women's rights and issues. Sheikh Zayed looked forward to the day when he could see female Emirati doctors, engineers and ambassadors, and his wishes came true, as Emirati women occupy positions such



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

THE UAE provides humanitarian aid to many countries, without discrimination based on the political values of beneficiary countries, as well as on location, race, colour or religion.

as ministers, the Speaker of the Federal National Council, FNC, members of the FNC, doctors, engineers, officers, and air defence pilots,” Sheikha Fatima continued.

“As we celebrate Zayed Humanitarian Work Day, we renew our vows as the people of this giving country to pursue his generous journey and blessed approach in building a civilised nation, which now has an advanced position among developed countries and leads in international humanitarian work, under the leadership of President

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, as well as Their Highnesses, Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates,” she added.

Sheikha Fatima concluded, “Zayed Humanitarian Work Day is an occasion to express our love and loyalty for our role model of

humanitarian giving, and to prove to the world that the journey of our nation’s founder continues to be carried forward.”

‘UAE committed to Zayed’s values, legacy’

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State and Chairman of the National Media Council, NMC, asserted that Zayed Humanitarian Work Day represents a national occasion where the nation proudly looks back on the UAE Founding Father’s role in establishing the country’s reputation and prestige as one of the most generous



countries in the world, and among the most prolific donors in terms of humanitarian aid, empowering nations and peoples around the world to conquer the challenges they face.

“With the dedication of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Their Highnesses, Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates, the charity and philanthropy long promoted and practiced by the late Sheikh

Zayed has become part of the UAE’s heritage, and a guiding principle that the Emirates consistently espouses,” Dr. Al Jaber said in a statement.

‘An exceptional day for UAE’

Major General Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Commander-General of the Abu Dhabi Police, ADP, stated that 19th Ramadan is crucial to the UAE’s present and future, and is a source of pride for Emiratis, and promotes the values of giving, tolerance and compassion.

In his speech marking the occasion, Al Rumaithi said that celebrating 19th Ramadan reinforces the humanitarian approach of the founding father, Sheikh Zayed.

He added that Sheikh Zayed promoted compassion, tolerance and giving among the Emirati community, which is proud of its values and traditions and expresses its gratitude to Sheikh Zayed through advancing his humanitarian work and giving beyond the UAE’s borders.

‘An occasion to commemorate memory of Sheikh Zayed’

In a report, titled, “The Achievements of Emirati Diplomacy in the Field of Foreign Aid,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has stated that the annual day of celebration of Zayed Humanitarian Work Day on 19th Ramadan will witness the unity of the UAE’s

The UAE's foreign aid has assisted 188 countries, through effective global initiatives, international partnerships and humanitarian services.



people and wise leadership in commemorating the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan while expressing their loyalty to his unique journey of giving and promoting the UAE's humanitarian position.

The Zayed Humanitarian Work Day is an occasion to remember the humanitarian achievements of the UAE's diplomacy and its assistance to the people of other countries.

After the establishment of the UAE, the scope of his charity work widened to include the entire world, and the value his humanitarian and development aid, from 1971 to 2004, amounted to AED90.5 billion, which benefitted 117 countries,

according to a previous report issued by the ministry.

The UAE provides humanitarian aid to many countries, without discrimination based on the political values of beneficiary countries, as well as on location, race, colour or religion.

"We are following in the footsteps of the father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to provide humanitarian and development aid, which is a key component of the UAE's foreign policy. The country will continue following its cultural approach in its relations with other countries, and call for justice for the oppressed, and build bridges of love and cooperation between various

people, to achieve peace and prosperity," His Highness Sheikh Khalifa said.

By implementing this vision and the values of Sheikh Zayed, the UAE, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa, has accomplished many humanitarian achievements and occupied the first position as the largest donor of foreign aid in the world in 2017, according to recent statistics from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD.

In 2017, the total value of official development aid expenses provided by the UAE amounted to AED19.32 billion (US\$5.26 billion), an 18.1 percent growth compared to 2016.



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celebrating green community

Over half of this aid, or 54 percent, came in the form of non-refunded grants, which supported the development plans of beneficiary countries.

Over 94 percent of the UAE's official developmental assistance in 2017 was valued at AED18.3 billion while 68 percent of this assistance, or AED12.38 billion, supported public programmes and assisted the governments of beneficiary countries, which included Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, the Palestinian Authority and Serbia, to meet their public expenditure and maintain their balance of payments, as well as to strengthen their financial stability and investment environment and serve their

other development goals and plans.

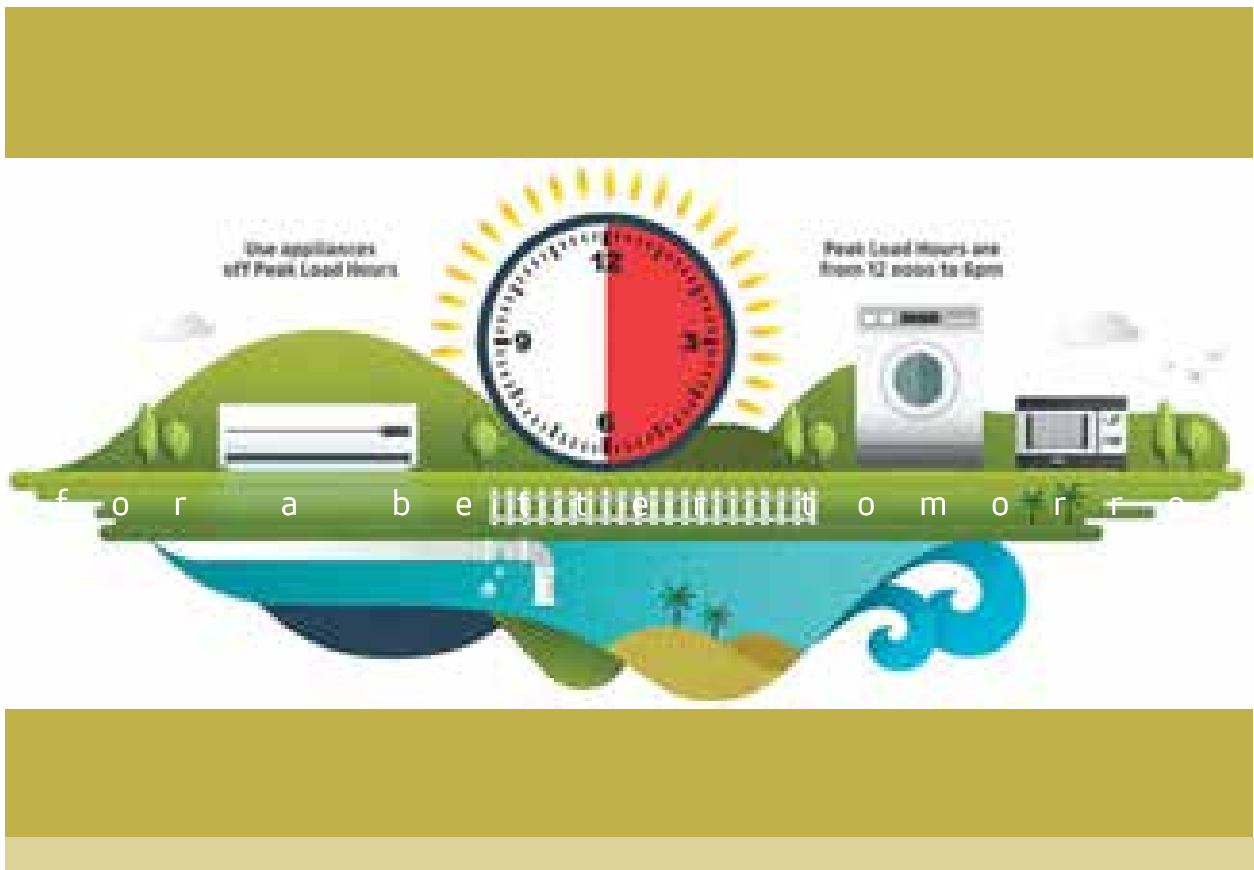
The UAE's assistance also helped to fund infrastructure projects in many developing countries, through the launch of urban development, transport infrastructure, health, education and renewable energy programmes.

Despite its increasing regional humanitarian assistance, the UAE is continuing to support international humanitarian causes and keeping pace with events and crises.

These humanitarian accomplishments coincide with the UAE's celebration of the Sheikh Zayed's Centennial and

the declaration of 2018 as the Year of Zayed while highlighting its efforts to work according to a clear vision and plan, with the aim of improving the outcomes of its assistance, easing the humanitarian conditions in beneficiary countries, and developing fragile and weak communities, through launching projects that comply with the country's sustainable developmental goals and the International Agenda 2030, which focus on combating hunger and poverty and empowering women and girls.

The UAE's foreign aid has assisted 188 countries, through effective global initiatives, international partnerships and humanitarian services.



Residents urged to limit use of electrical appliances during 'Peak Load'

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, has launched the “Peak Load” awareness campaign to encourage people to limit the use of appliances that use a lot of energy during peak-load hours from 12:00 - 18:00.

This is part of DEWA’s “Let’s Make This Summer Green” campaign, which includes tips and guidelines to reduce electricity and water use during the summer. DEWA is urging customers to reschedule the use of appliances such as water heaters, electric ovens, washing machines, dishwashers, and irons for use during the morning or evening.

“DEWA supports the Dubai

Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to transform Dubai into a global hub for clean energy and green economy and make it the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world. DEWA also supports the Demand Side Management Strategy to reduce electricity and water use by 30 percent by 2030. Through DEWA’s campaigns and initiatives, we aim to promote conservation, and encourage everyone to adopt a conscious and responsible lifestyle to ensure the sustainability of natural resources,” said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA.

Al Tayer noted that DEWA adopts a comprehensive strategy to raise awareness about the

importance of the sensible use of energy and water and involve everyone in its efforts to protect the environment and preserve natural resources.

Amal Koshak, Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Communications at DEWA, noted that the “Peak Load” campaign urges customers to use high-energy consuming appliances in the morning or evening, outside peak-load hours.

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 AED1.038 billion.

Dubai Police and Zayed Foundation unveil 'Zayed Centennial' in Khartoum



['Zayed Centennial', featuring a seminar and exhibition of photographs of the Founding Father of the UAE, marked the start of the Year of Zayed celebrations in Sudan, jointly organized by the Dubai Police and Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Sudan and the International University of Africa, Sudan.](#)

The Year of Zayed celebrations was officially launched in Khartoum, Sudan, recently with a symposium and an exhibition of rare photographs of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE. The event, titled 'Zayed Centennial', was jointly organized by the Dubai Police and Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Sudan and the International University of Africa, Sudan.

The exhibition was launched by Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police and Chairman of the Zayed Foundation, in the presence of His Excellency Prof. Kamal Mohammed Obaid, Vice Chancellor of the International University of Africa, Dr. Osama Mansour Al-Sawwah, Head of the Department of Crisis Management at the Dubai Police Academy and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor, Zayed Foundation, and faculty, academic staff and students of the

International University of Africa.

The rare photographs show the UAE's Founding Father nurturing his nascent federation in its early years, highlighting also his efforts in protecting the environment – a passion that stemmed long before the birth of the nation.

The attendees were given an insight into how the timeless legacy of the Founding Father lives on in the Year of Zayed not only in the UAE but also around the world.



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

THE UAE is forever indebted to the pioneering and visionary leadership of Sheikh Zayed whose strong leadership led to enormous socio-economic transformation of the nation.

In his address at the event, Prof. Kamal Mohammed Obaid underlined the special relationship Sudan enjoys with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). “We have historic and deeply rooted ties that commenced during the era of the wise leader, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace.

“The sound brotherly relationship between the two countries has been further strengthened under the leadership of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. It is a great prestigious honour therefore for the International

University of Africa to be hosting the Zayed Centennial exhibition in the Year of Zayed, to commemorate the legacy of a visionary leader.”

The UAE and the Republic of Sudan enjoy long-standing ties of cooperation and strategic bilateral relations, built on joint coordination and economic and development partnerships, that have contributed to the progress and prosperity of Sudan, he added.

“An icon of global humanitarian work, Sheikh Zayed’s visit to Sudan in February 1972 after the creation of the UAE federation helped

further cement the deep relations between the two countries.”

Thanking the people of Sudan and the students and faculty of the International University of Africa for hosting the Zayed Centennial event, Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad, said the UAE is forever indebted to the pioneering and visionary leadership of Sheikh Zayed whose strong leadership led to enormous socio-economic transformation of the nation.

“He built a solid foundation for the country’s future based on the core values such as generosity,



tolerance, equality and unity, and instilled in the citizens and a deep desire to turn their dreams into a reality and achieve the impossible,” said Dr. Bin Fahad. “Sheikh Zayed always laid stress on education and women empowerment, promoted the values of cooperation and peaceful dialogue and championed the cause of environmentalism in the country.”

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

Dr. Bin Fahad also gave a detailed presentation on the prestigious Award, its inception and its global motivation. He also familiarised the audience about the Foundation, briefing them about its history.

He explained that the Zayed Prize was founded in 1999 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to recognise and encourage environmental achievements, promote the implementation of Agenda 21, Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development, Outcomes of Rio+20 and Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the vision and philosophy of Sheikh Zayed.

At the event, Dr. Osama Mansour Al-Sawwah gave a lecture on “How the world sees the late Sheikh Zayed” while Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif explored the many aspects of the ‘Environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed’.





UAE Food Bank distributes 73,200 food packets during Ramadan 2018

The UAE Food Bank distributed 73,200 food packets during the Holy Month of Ramadan this year, which included 49,700 iftar kits and 23,500 suhoor meals.

The food distribution was organised in cooperation with a group of supporting sponsors, including Sadia, Al Islami Foods, Caesar Catering, Lulu Hypermarket, West Zone Supermarket, Barakat, STC, Zahrat Al Madaen, Farzana General Trading, Dubai Golf Club, Procat Catering, Modern Bakery, Alia General Trading, Al Habtoor Grand Hotel, Nusrat Restaurant, Issa Al Ghurair, and Al Hamar Kitchen.

Khalid Sharif Al Awadhi,
Assistant Director-General of

the Environment, Health and Safety Control Sector at Dubai Municipality and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the UAE Food Bank, hailed the achievements of the UAE Food Bank during Ramadan 2018.

He said the distribution of thousands of iftar and suhoor food packets have assisted in meeting the bank's objectives of providing food to the needy, reducing wasted food, supporting charitable and humanitarian initiatives, as well as promoting the principle of volunteering, in the Year of Zayed.

He also pointed out that, as per a strategic partnership, the logistics company Careem provided food collection and

delivery services during the Holy Month of Ramadan. "Careem collected a total of 377 food packets from the public and delivered it to the nearest UAE Food Bank fridges kept around the emirate of Dubai, in accordance with the specific health and safety standards and requirements.

"During the month of Ramadan, the UAE Food Bank also supported the 'Your Suhoor is our Responsibility' initiative, launched by the Community Development Authority in Dubai, through the distribution of 500 suhoor meals daily among workers at the Abdul Rahim bin Ketit Mosque in Al Quoz, Dubai, after Taraweeh prayers," Al Awadhi added.

British Museum Gallery to be named after Sheikh Zayed



The gallery for Europe and the Middle East explores the history of farming in the Middle East and the resulting social, cultural and economic progress that formed the modern world.

The Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi, DCT Abu Dhabi, and the British Museum signed an agreement on 20th June 2018 to rename a gallery in the British Museum after the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the UAE.

Building upon the long history of cooperation and collaboration between the two organisations, and in a fitting tribute to the late Sheikh Zayed's legacy, 'The Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Gallery for Europe and the Middle East' explores the history of

farming in the Middle East and the resulting social, cultural and economic progress that formed the modern world.

The agreement was signed by Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of DCT Abu Dhabi, and Hartwig Fischer, Director of the British Museum, in a ceremony held at the British Museum in London with Saif Saeed Ghobash, Undersecretary of DCT Abu Dhabi, Sulaiman Hamid Al Mazroui, the UAE Ambassador to the UK, and Sir Richard Lambert, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum, in attendance.

Al Mubarak said, "In this year, the Year of Zayed, as we come together as a nation to celebrate the legacy of the Founding Father, we see no more of a fitting tribute to his cultural vision for the UAE and his mission to build bridges between nations across the world.

"The renaming of this gallery, one that explores the history and heritage of the Middle East, and the lasting impact that an industry can have on the world, highlights the significant role that Sheikh Zayed played in the preservation and protection of our unique cultural heritage, and



THE RENAMING of the gallery after Sheikh Zayed acknowledges the UAE leader's lifelong commitment to heritage and culture.

his understanding of its vital importance in the development of a thriving society," he added.

Fischer said, "We are honoured that DCT Abu Dhabi has chosen to name the gallery after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The British Museum is about the interconnectivity of cultures, and this gallery shows the impact of the introduction of farming in the Middle East and its spread to Europe, thereby shaping the modern world. This support is a reflection of the long-standing collaborative relationship we share with DCT Abu Dhabi"

The renaming of the gallery acknowledges the UAE leader's lifelong commitment to heritage and culture. An active supporter of the first archaeological excavations in the emirates over 50 years ago, he was responsible for the founding of the Al Ain Museum, the oldest in the UAE.

Located on the upper floor of the British Museum, the Sheikh Zayed gallery explores the development of farming between 10,000BC and 800BC. This agreement builds upon the British Museum's history of collaboration with DCT Abu Dhabi. Since 2009, DCT Abu

Dhabi has worked collaboratively with the British Museum on the development of Zayed National Museum, the centrepiece of Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Cultural District supporting the development of the museum's narrative, collection, and resources training.

In addition to the renaming, the agreement will also include the development of a loan framework that will see important objects from the British Museum be exhibited at Zayed National Museum. The unique objects will complement the future museum's permanent collection.

Initiative

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‘Suqia Zayed’ initiative launched to provide drinking water during Ramadan



More than eight million water cups were provided at iftar and mosque tents under a new initiative launched in the UAE.

Under the umbrella of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), the UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia), launched the ‘Suqia Zayed’ initiative on 4th June 2018 to provide clean drinking water at Iftar and mosque tents inside and outside the UAE.

In celebration of the Holy Month of Ramadan and in line with the objectives of the Year of Zayed, the Foundation also launched a campaign throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan to raise awareness on water scarcity and urge community members

to donate, in order to provide clean drinking water to the underprivileged around the world.

Suqia organised the Suqia Zayed initiative across the UAE, in partnership with Mai Dubai, and in cooperation with 14 charities, providing more than 8 million water cups. The initiative extends to 13 countries, in collaboration with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Establishment. These countries include Uganda, Chad, Egypt, Brazil, Canada, USA, Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan, Ukraine and Bangladesh.

“Suqia is committed to charity initiatives during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Suqia Zayed provides drinking water to the people fasting at iftar tents and mosques inside and outside the UAE, throughout the month.

“The initiative reflects the spirit of the Year of Zayed, and the noble values and principles instilled by our late founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan; mainly, investing in humans, wisdom and philanthropy. The initiative also reflects our commitment to implementing the vision of His



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

THE INITIATIVE extends to 13 countries, in collaboration with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Establishment.

Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for the sustainability of giving in the UAE,” said Mohammed Abdulkareem Al Shamsi, Acting Executive Director of Suqia.

“During the Year of Zayed, Suqia launched its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, which included 6 humanitarian and social projects and initiatives, in collaboration with DEWA and Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment,” he added.

“Suqia strives to help those in need of clean water around the world and to develop sustainable and innovative solutions to water scarcity through research and development. This comes in line with our vision to provide clean and sustainable water with innovative solutions, and our mission to bring happiness to poor and afflicted communities by promoting investment in sustainable and innovative solutions through solar energy.

“This helps to provide clean drinking water, through building effective and sustainable

partnerships, in line with best global practices,” he said.

Over 8 million people in 25 countries have benefitted from Suqia’s initiatives and sustainable development projects so far, said Al Shamsi.



Summit

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

GOV HR Summit to honour life and legacy of UAE's Founding Father



The GOVHR Summit will feature a series of powerful keynote presentations, panel discussions, and roundtable sessions examining pressing issues and challenges facing HR managers in GCC public sector entities.

As the UAE celebrates 2018 as 'Year of Zayed' to mark 100 years since the birth of the nation's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the legacy of the beloved leader and his contributions to the UAE's progress and development will be under the spotlight at the upcoming GOV HR Summit 2018, the biggest government and public sector event in the GCC.

Set to take place from 23rd - 24th October 2018 at the Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi, the summit will bring together public HR leaders and

policy-makers from across the region to discuss critical issues such as the changing role of people management in the digital era and the need to address the mismatch between labour market requirements and the skills and expectations of young GCC nationals.

Organised by Dubai-based QnA International, the summit will be hosted this year under the theme "Because People Matter". The sixth edition of the annual summit comes at a critical juncture in the broader context of the talent development and workforce

nationalisation programmes being undertaken by GCC governments as part of their strategy for the future. The UAE is targeting a 40% increase in knowledge workers by 2021 while Saudi Arabia's National Transformation Programme aims to create 450,000 new jobs by 2020 and reduce the overall unemployment rate to 7%.

The Kingdom's stated objective is to achieve 100% nationalisation of government and public sector jobs by 2020. Kuwait also is considering implementation of a draft law to nationalise all



THE TWO-DAY summit will conclude with the region's best-known and most prestigious HR awards programme, the "GCC GOV HR Awards 2018".

government jobs. A March 2018 report published by the British Council notes that developing analytical capabilities and communications and technology skills among UAE youth is key to creating a globally competitive workforce that is ready and equipped to meet the challenges of the future workplace. This holds equally true for young people in other GCC states.

All of these issues will be under the spotlight at the GOV HR Summit 2018 which will bring together public HR leaders with key policy-makers and

experts to discuss changing workplace trends and explore new approaches to accelerating people development and increasing youth participation in national economic growth.

Ackash Jain, Director, QnA International, said, "Public sector HR managers realise that achieving financial success or customer service excellence is no longer enough. To empower their workforce and to make a meaningful contribution to their country's national transformation plan, they must ensure that their strategy for human capital

development is aligned with the nations' long-term social and economic vision as well as the skills and competencies most essential in driving the nation toward a more prosperous and inclusive future."

Bringing together HR leaders from top government, semi-government and state-owned entities across the GCC, the GOV HR Summit will feature a series of powerful keynote presentations, panel discussions, and roundtable sessions examining pressing issues and challenges facing HR managers in GCC public sector entities.



'Sheikh Zayed recognised importance of agriculture in advancement of humanity'

On the occasion of 'Zayed Humanitarian Work Day' on the 19th of Ramadan, Jose Graziano da Silva, the director general of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, has praised the late Sheikh Zayed, the founding father of the UAE, for what he described as his "great understanding for the important role agriculture plays in the advancement of humanity."

According to Da Silva, "Sheikh Zayed was a man with a bright vision in areas related to agriculture, the environment and water. He helped turn large tracts of desert green by investing in agriculture."

The Sheikh Zayed International

Media and Knowledge Centre, which was inaugurated at the FAO headquarters in Rome in 2012, Da Silva said, "is an important token of our appreciation for the founder of the UAE."

Since it was established, over 360 events have been hosted at the Centre, including international press conferences, launches of global reports and other important functions, in which heads of state, royalty, ministers, Nobel Prize winners and other leading figures have taken part.

Construction of the center was completed in 2011. At the official opening, the UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs and

International Co-operation, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan noted: "Our sponsorship of this project underscores our strong conviction that FAO plays an indispensable role in addressing the challenges of poverty and malnutrition and responding to agricultural development problems, particularly in developing countries."

Covering 260 sq.m. of floor space, the Sheikh Zayed International Media and Knowledge Centre includes a conference hall allowing for live TV transmissions and debates, a new TV studio with post-production suites and e-learning facilities, with state-of-the-art broadcasting and communication technology.



Al Jalila Foundation marks 'Zayed Humanitarian Day'

Al Jalila Foundation, a global philanthropic organisation dedicated to transforming lives through medical education and research, celebrates Zayed Humanitarian Day by recognising the contributions from the community to support life-saving treatment to children in the UAE.

The Year of Zayed commemorates 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, whose timeless legacy and values of compassion, giving and volunteerism are honoured and continuously celebrated. Al Jalila Foundation, through its A'awen programme, echoes the vision of Sheikh Zayed by providing support, medical treatment

and care to patients in the UAE who are unable to afford quality treatment. Since its inception in 2013, Al Jalila Foundation has supported 467 patients from 36 nationalities, including 190 children, and invested AED34 million to provide relief to patients who have suffered a number of chronic illnesses and life-threatening conditions. The treatment costs for patients, newborn to 90 years of age, have ranged from to AED20,000 to AED250,000 per individual.

In its efforts to be a leader in medical innovation, Al Jalila Foundation works closely with healthcare partners to develop special treatment programmes that meet the needs of patients. Farah, happiness in Arabic, is

the Foundation's paediatric treatment programme which has helped many young patients: from life-saving heart surgeries to cochlear implant or prosthetic limbs.

Dr. Raja Easa Al Gurg, Chairperson of the Board of Directors and Member of the Board of Trustees of Al Jalila Foundation, said, "In line with Sheikh Zayed's vision of prosperity for the nation, at Al Jalila Foundation we believe that every child should have the chance of a happy, healthy life. Through our healthcare programmes we sponsor some of the best medical treatment in the world and invest in vital research to eliminate illnesses in the future."

Initiative

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

UAE to build world's largest coral garden in Fujairah



[The largest coral garden in the world will be built off the coast of the UAE's eastern emirate of Fujairah.](#)

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCA, and the Fujairah Centre for Adventures have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, to cultivate the largest coral garden in the world along the coast of Fujairah.

The MoU was signed by Sultan Alwan, Assistant Under-Secretary of the Regions Sector at MoCCA, and Saeed Al Muamari, Director of the Fujairah Centre for Adventures. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, attended the signing ceremony.

Speaking on the new partnership, Alwan said that cultivating the world's largest coral garden in Fujairah is one of the many environmental initiatives being taken in the 'Year of Zayed'. The garden, expected to set a Guinness World Record, will provide a haven for biodiversity to sustain and rehabilitate ecosystems in the UAE.

In turn, Al Muamari noted that the agreement was ratified under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, to preserve

marine life and enhance fisheries, thereby boosting tourism in the emirate and attracting divers and nature enthusiasts from the UAE and abroad.

"Such agreements are important to help preserve the pristine natural beauty of the region, and its precious marine environment. The project is the largest in the world and will help boost local and international interest in the coral reef and the marine environment," Al Muamari added.

He said that the MoU will help protect the country's marine



es for a better tomorrow

THE CORAL garden in Fujairah aims to attract divers and nature enthusiasts to the emirate, as part of national efforts to position the UAE as a destination for ecotourism.

life, especially the diverse environments of its coastlines, while promoting and enhancing community participation. This is a key objective of the Fujairah Centre for Adventures in all its agreements with government institutions and departments. He also thanked Dr. Al Zeyoudi for the ministry's contribution to the project.

Under the MoU, MOCCAЕ will provide grown corals of various sizes and types to meet the project's unique needs. It will also provide technical support and logistics services to the onsite team, such as supplying team

members with the equipment and materials needed for coral aquaculture and transplantation and sea transportation.

The ministry will also offer teams from the centre technical training on the scientific approach to coral aquaculture and transplantation.

The centre will determine the best geographical location for the garden - to ensure it is easily accessible and within range of logistics services and that it falls within a natural protected area. The location selected by the centre should meet the technical

conditions set by MoCCAЕ, such as ensuring it is on rocky ground and at less than one nautical mile from the shore.

The centre will also pilot different mechanisms of coral aquaculture and transplantation, in addition to monitoring and documenting the development in corals and assessing the area's biodiversity every quarter. A joint technical team will be formed tasked with formulating an action plan for the project based on the recommendations of both parties, and propose ways to develop the project and draft follow-up reports.



Dubai Chamber International Offices organise CSR activities for Year of Zayed

The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry's representative offices in China and Azerbaijan has organised a host of corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities as part of the organisation's efforts to support the UAE's Year of Zayed initiative.

The Chamber's office in China donated medical equipment to the Shanghai Red Cross, which included patient beds, walking sticks and other materials and supplies that are being used to train volunteers who care for the elderly in Shanghai.

The Chamber's Azerbaijan office launched a new programme offering part-time and paid

internship opportunities to young people of determination in Baku.

The initiative aims to create career development paths for students with physical disabilities and strong intellectual capabilities.

Omar Khan, Dubai Chamber's Director of International Offices, stressed the important role that the Chamber's international offices play in promoting humanitarian values that the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan embodied and instilled in his people.

"By scaling up our CSR efforts abroad, we hope to strengthen the UAE's reputation as a global humanitarian leader," Khan added.

DZFC organises "Zayed Giving" campaign

The Dar Zayed for Family Care, DZFC, has organised a campaign, under the slogan, "Zayed Giving," as part of its community initiatives and programmes for the Year of Zayed 2018. The DZFC will purchase basic supplies and distribute them to needy families.

The initiative is part of the DZFC's journey of giving, promotes the culture of volunteering among its orphans, and encourages them to follow in the footsteps of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who ingrained a love for giving within the country and has made the UAE an international leader in humanitarian and charity work.



Ministry of Community Development launches 'Save a Bird' campaign

The Ministry of Community Development, MoCD, has launched the 'Save a Bird' campaign to mark the Year of Zayed and Zayed Humanitarian Work Day, celebrated every year on the 19th day of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Developed by students with intellectual disabilities from the Ras Al Khaimah Centre for People of Determination, the initiative makes bird tables handcrafted by the students available to the public on order through the Ministry's website.

People can place the bird tables on their windows and balconies or in their gardens, and fill them with feed to provide relief for birds at times of food shortage

due to extreme summer temperatures.

With its latest campaign, MoCD seeks to provide an opportunity for people of determination to contribute to society.

In cooperation with the Community Police Department of the Ajman Police General Command and My Advisor Centre for Training and Consultation, the Ministry also organised a seminar entitled 'Zayed Humanitarian Work Day'.

DP World marks Year of Zayed with community initiatives

In commemoration of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the Year of Zayed, DP World, UAE Region launched a series of Ramadan

initiatives that celebrate the season's spirit of giving and Emirati cultural values. The programme includes donating to those in need, visiting elderly people and supporting DP World, UAE Region employees.

Over 3,300 Iftar meals were distributed every day, a total of over 100,000 meals during Ramadan to DP World, UAE Region employees living in staff accommodation and workers of Jebel Ali Free Zone companies in collaboration with Emirates Red Crescent and Jafza customers. A team of volunteers also ensured that supplies such as water, dates and other foodstuffs are provided for workers breaking their fast.

Sustainability

Art of Recycling initiative shines the spotlight on the marine environment



Green Youth Majlis (GYM), a youth-led platform in the UAE designed to address the current environmental challenges locally and globally, held the Art of Recycling initiative to create awareness for the protection of the marine environment.

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan once said: “The marine environment in the UAE has always been of special importance. It has been and continues to be our main source to food and access to clean water, either for drinking or for the development of our agricultural and industrial renaissance”.

He also said: “Protecting the environment should not be or seen as a matter of concern for the government and authorities only, but a matter of concern to all of us. It is the responsibility of

everyone and the responsibility of each individual in our society, citizens and residents”.

In the Year of Zayed, members of the Green Youth Majlis (GYM) decided to take the message of Sheikh Zayed forward by initiating a project under the name “Art of Recycling” to create awareness in the society for protecting marine environment. Plastic waste in Abu Dhabi was collected and artistic upcycled art of endangered marine species were designed from it.

The project aimed to raise society

awareness for changing people’s behaviour in using plastics and to adopt the 4Rs concept (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover).

Providing continuous support to the Green Youth Majlis (GYM) members was Borouge who has proactively contributed in preventing plastic waste from endangering the environment. One of their sustainable campaigns, “Zero Pellet Loss”, was initiated by the Borouge Innovation Centre to reduce and contain any loss of plastic material to the environment. In collaboration with Borouge Innovation Centre,



MANY TURTLES lose their nesting beaches as plastic obstruct sandy areas suitable for nesting.

GYM members collected their contained plastic waste for use in the “Art of Recycling” initiative.

Plastic waste is accumulating in UAE waters and is threatening many of the animals living in and near it. Researchers have identified plastic in the stomachs of more than 35 percent of the world’s seabird species.

As for the coral reefs, scientists speculate that the increase in disease could be due to plastic items blocking light and oxygen from reaching the corals, which require both to survive. Depriving

them of these make corals more susceptible to infection by harmful microbes. Coral reefs are an important ecosystem in the marine environment and many

species depend on it for various reasons; if this ecosystem is harmed then consequently all other marine species are harmed as well.



Sustainability

30 creating green communities

UAE takes lead in harnessing power from world's first commercial floating wind farm



[Masdar and Equinor inaugurate world's first battery storage facility connected to an offshore wind farm.](#)

Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) and the Norwegian multinational energy company Equinor (formerly Statoil) have installed, and will soon begin testing, a new battery system designed to store electricity generated by Hywind Scotland, the world's first commercial-scale floating wind farm.

The battery storage solution is the first in the world to be connected to an offshore wind farm. The project is designed to evaluate the capabilities of advanced storage technologies to optimise the release of electricity

from renewable energy plants to transmission grids - from both a technical and commercial perspective.

Deployed at an onshore substation, the battery system known as "Batwind" has a storage capacity of 1.2 megawatts, equivalent to the battery capacity of more than 1.3 million iPhones. By helping to mitigate peaks and troughs in production, the project aims to maximise the commercial value of Hywind Scotland's electricity output.

Following the successful

installation of Batwind, Masdar and Equinor will now explore how the new storage solution can be utilised to improve the operational and cost efficiency of other wind farms - to open up new commercial opportunities in an expanding global wind power market.

Bader Al Lamki, Masdar's Executive Director for Clean Energy, said: "Energy storage is vital to unlocking the full potential of renewables by mitigating the variable nature of wind and solar power. Batwind will help us to understand how we can deploy



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

THE STORAGE unit, named Batwind, will store energy produced by five wind turbines floating in the North Sea some 25 kilometres off the Scottish eastern coast port city of Peterhead.

this new technology in future projects, both in solar power and wind power plants.”

“Batwind exemplifies how we at Masdar are moving forward with our partners, through innovation and collaboration, to bring commercially viable solutions to the renewable energy sector,” Al Lamki added.

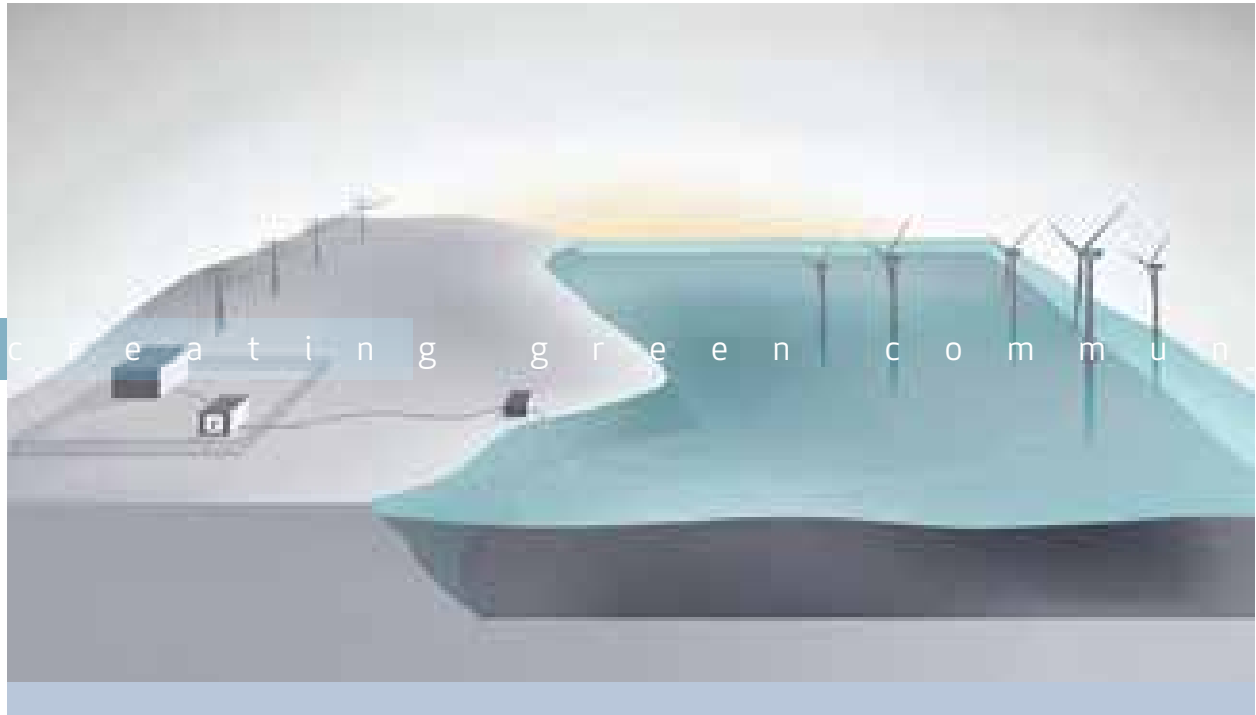
According to a recent International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) report from last October, the cost of installing battery storage systems could fall by two-thirds (66%) by

2030. Masdar has played a key role in developing energy storage solutions as part of its commitment over the last decade to advance commercially viable clean technologies. An example is the Gemasolar concentrated solar power (CSP) project in Spain, the first in the world to use molten salt thermal storage and able to generate electricity 24 hours a day.

Operational data from Batwind will be assessed based on the weather, market prices and consumption patterns to create an intelligent and optimised

storage system. “The variability of renewable energy can to a certain extent be managed by the grid, but to integrate even more renewables, we will need to find new smart solutions for energy storage to reduce system integration costs and provide firm power,” said Hywind Development Manager, Sebastian Bringsvaerd. “How to do this in a smart and value creating way is what we are aiming to learn from Batwind.”

The Hywind Scotland wind farm was inaugurated in October 2017. Masdar holds a 25 per cent stake in the project while Equinor owns



the remaining 75 per cent. The wind farm is made up of five 6-megawatt (MW) turbines floating 25 kms off the coast of Peterhead in northeast Scotland.

With an installed capacity of 30MW, Hywind Scotland supplies approximately 6,600 homes and displaces 63,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

The project is Masdar's second offshore wind partnership with Equinor, after the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm in the English North Sea. Combined with London Array, currently the world's largest offshore wind farm in operation, the projects bring the total capacity of the UK renewable energy projects in

which Masdar is an investor to over 1 gigawatt (GW).

Since 2006, Masdar has invested in renewable energy projects with a combined value of US\$8.5 billion. Besides the UK, Masdar's renewable energy projects are located in the UAE, Jordan, Mauritania, Egypt, Morocco, Montenegro, Serbia and Spain. The electricity generating capacity of these projects, which are either fully operational or under development, is around 3 gigawatts (GW) gross.

SEWA tops Emirates Waste Management prize

The Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority, SEWA, won first place in the Waste Management and Recycling Prize, the institution

category, for its efforts in recycling print ink cartridges.

The prize is organised annually by the Emirates Environmental Group, EEG.

Fatima Ali Asghar, Head of the Infrastructure Section at SEWA, said that SEWA received this award after a competition with a number of participants in the campaign, organised by the IT executive office during 2017, in which 1,657 public and private agencies took part in various categories for the award.

This included waste management and recycling campaigns in the UAE, the collection of paper, plastic, aluminium cans, ink, mobile phones and glass bottles.



Green building trends highlighted at Sustainability Lecture Series

United Technologies gathered more than 150 building professionals in early June in Dubai to discuss trends in global urbanization and the advantages of “building green,” from health effects to the preservation of priceless works of art.

“The Middle East has a great opportunity for green building and sustainable urbanization,” said Giorgio Elia, vice president, UTC Climate, Controls & Security, Middle East. “There are proven economic, environmental and social trends driving the demand for sustainable urbanization across the world. Today’s event offered local building professionals a new look at those trends to help drive

the conversation on the value of green buildings.”

The event featured presentations from Michel Grabon, Director of Advanced Systems at UTC Climate, Controls & Security; and Dr. Joseph Allen, Assistant Professor of Exposure Assessment Science at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Director of the Healthy Buildings program at the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School

Dr. Allen’s lecture focused on his latest research from Harvard, showing how green buildings influence human health in two critically important ways: on

an individual level through optimized indoor environments and a population level through reductions in energy use and reductions in air pollutants.

Grabon spoke about the practical application of Carrier equipment that helps preserve famous works of art. Carrier’s installation of an innovative HVAC system in the Sistine Chapel demonstrated that energy efficient, quiet equipment could be retrofitted to meet the Vatican’s demanding requirements and protect some of the world’s most precious art, Michelangelo’s famous frescoes.

These events were part of a larger series called the Distinguished Sustainability Lecture Series.

Modernising farming techniques essential for food security: Al Zeyoudi



The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, has urged farmers to utilise modern technology to boost quality, production.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, conducted a series of visits to farmers and landowners in the UAE to encourage them to use modern agricultural and harvesting techniques, to boost production and use their yield for commercial marketing.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, “Enhancing the productivity of local agriculture is crucial to ensuring the UAE’s future food security. We can achieve this goal by

diversifying our food sources. Food diversification relies on recognising the diverse objectives and contributions of traditional landholders and commercial farmers, as well as establishing programmes to support both, to ensure the sustainable use of resources. The state’s support to farmers is an incentive for them to become actively involved in commercial production.”

He noted that only about five percent of landholders are involved in commercial production, and less than one percent contribute to the local

food supply. “We need to create programmes to increase the engagement of landholders and farmers in adopting sustainable management practices, and encourage them to become commercial farmers,” he added.

“Local vegetable production provides around 20 percent of the market demand for fresh produce. While a wide range of crops are cultivated in the UAE, most are only harvested over a short season, with the majority in late winter or early spring. There are a few exceptions that extend over a season and are produced



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

THE SUSTAINABILITY and quality of locally produced vegetables can be improved through promoting innovative production systems

in greenhouses, whereas only one crop is produced for most of the year. Storing these crops to make them available in markets around the year consumes a considerable amount of energy for cooling, which increases their final costs," according to Dr. Al Zeyoudi.

He explained that most farmers are reluctant to adopt modern farming techniques and prefer field production, as it is generally the easiest and most profitable approach. The sustainability and quality of locally produced vegetables can be improved through promoting innovative

production systems, which will increase output and quality and reduce negative environmental effects, Al Zeyoudi stated.

He stressed that the low economic return from local agriculture discourages landlords from upgrading their equipment and techniques. "This is why the MOCCA is promoting its research and development efforts, to slash production costs and increase volume while marketing certain crops more effectively and exploring new varieties that can be grown locally."

Achieving food diversity in the UAE will involve developing the agriculture sector, through creating markets for locally produced food commodities, under the slogan, "Made in UAE," at home and abroad, he said in conclusion.

MoCCA to adopt drone-enabled technology to collect agricultural intelligence

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCA, is introducing a new project to survey and map agricultural areas using unmanned aerial vehicles or drones. MoCCA invited several



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

professional drone companies in the UAE to carry out the pilot phase of the project. The pilot phase which commenced in June included surveying and mapping Wadi Al Khib area (500 sqm) in the emirate of Fujairah via the cutting-edge technology.

Commenting on the announcement, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Using a drone-enabled aerial mapping system is the ideal solution to generate high-resolution, highly efficient aerial data, including topographic mapping, contouring, vector mapping and textured 3D city models. This data will be systematically analysed to produce accurate

statistical information that is updated constantly.

"We hope through this project to create a highly accurate agricultural database that supports decision making and forward planning - particularly important if we are to achieve outstanding outcomes in precision agriculture," he added.

Some of the types of data to be collected through the project include the number of temperature-controlled greenhouses (chilled and outdoor temperature greenhouses), area of windbreaks, infertile land area, area of farm buildings and facilities, number of wells in a farm, soil type and salinity, and livestock population (camels,

cows, sheep, goats, and horses, among others). In addition, data on the number of beehives on a farm, farm area and geographical boundaries, farm classification (crop farm, animal farm or mixed), area of temporary and permanent crops, number of palm trees and other fruit trees, as well as area of protected agriculture will also be collated.





Sharjah Airport passes 3rd Level of Carbon Emissions Accreditation

Sharjah Airport has passed the third level of the International Accreditation Certificate on carbon emissions for airports, becoming first in the UAE and the third in the Middle East to pass this accreditation.

The achievement was announced during the meeting of the Airport Council International, ACI, in Narita, Japan, where Sharjah Airport's achievements and efforts to limit carbon emissions, within the framework of the Airport Carbon Emissions Management Programme, were highly praised by the council.

The accreditation certificate is the only certificate recognised in relation to the management of carbon emissions for

airports, worldwide.

Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of the Sharjah Airport Authority, praised Sharjah International Airport's carbon emission third-level accreditation from the Airport Council International.

In a statement, he confirmed that it demonstrates the extent of the airport's commitment to reducing carbon emissions through its adoption of green initiatives and programmes, in accordance with the UAE's commitment to sustainable development and reduction of carbon emissions, the UAE's strategy for green development, and Sharjah's Vision 2021 initiative.

"Within the third level of the

certificate, Sharjah Airport succeeded in realising such a high achievement due to its cooperation with its partners.

These include airlines companies, ground-handling service agents, fuel service providers, food suppliers and other concerned entities.

This full cooperation encouraged all partners to adopt a strategic and comprehensive approach to managing carbon emissions.

With this accreditation, Sharjah Airport joins the list of other airports that have been awarded level-three accreditation, including Sydney Airport and Brisbane Airport in Australia, and Queen Alia Airport in Jordan.

Report

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

‘GCC must make the right decisions to harness the potential of renewable energy’

Investment in GCC renewable energy could reach \$16 billion in 2020 with a cumulative total of \$40 billion between 2016 and 2020, provided the correct decisions and policies are adopted, according to a recent Strategy& Middle East study.

Renewable energy continues to attract an increasing share of global investment, with annual investments expected to grow by \$130 billion, compared to 2016 figures, reaching around \$370 billion in 2020.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states show great promise for renewable energy deployment, according to a recent study by management consultancy Strategy& Middle East (formerly Booz & Company), part of the PwC network.

To unlock this potential, GCC governments must develop a carefully planned framework and make careful decisions. The transition to a modern, renewables-based energy system is fraught with risk if governments take an ad hoc approach. Instead, they must

act quickly and deliberately.

The study shows that renewable energy continues to attract an increasing share of global investment, with annual investments expected to grow by \$130 billion, compared to 2016 figures, reaching around \$370 billion in 2020. The global investment cumulative total is estimated at \$1.5 trillion between 2016 and 2020.

GCC countries thus far have made little investment in renewables technology - less than \$1 billion in 2016 - and are at risk of falling





DEVELOPING COUNTRIES now account for almost half of all renewables investment, although to date there has been modest investment in the GCC.

further behind other countries if they do not create a supportive, coherent policy framework to facilitate renewables investment. While several factors in the GCC make rapid deployment of renewables attractive, there are major structural and institutional factors behind current underinvestment in renewable energy. These include:

- generous fuel subsidies
- a mindset that prefers building very large conventional plants to meet rapidly growing demand rather than many

smaller renewables projects

- the danger that existing capacity will be underutilized if renewables enter the energy mix in the wrong way
- concerns over transmission and distribution networks
- and, most significantly, unclear regulatory and policy frameworks that discourage the development of renewables.

Dr. Raed Kombargi, partner with Strategy& Middle East, said:

“The case for rapid deployment of renewable energy in the GCC is compelling. The GCC has ample solar and wind resources, a regional gas shortage along with growing domestic demand for hydrocarbons as fuel and feedstock, and an affordable means of financing renewable energy. With the right policies and decisions an increasing number of utilities in the GCC could add renewables to their energy supply mix.”

Located in the heart of the global sunbelt, the GCC countries have some of the highest solar



exposures in the world; solar power plants in the region can expect 1,750 to 1,930 hours of full-load operation a year, compared to 940 hours in Germany. The region also has the independent power plant (IPP) model, a commercial credit mechanism that makes cheap long-term financing affordable and available through private and foreign investors.

Dr. Shihab Elborai, principal with Strategy& Middle East, said: “The speed of transition to a new energy mix across the GCC is accelerating, with international investors showing considerable interest in renewables. To further take advantage of the renewables opportunities will require considerable funds and

commitment, along with a careful approach that minimizes risk.”

In the report, Strategy& has outlined six critical actions for GCC governments to take. Together these actions create a supportive policy framework and can be adapted to the specific circumstances of each of the GCC states.

These six steps are:

- **Set ambitious and realistic targets:** These provide critical signals to private developers and investors, allowing them to plan for the long-term and arrange the necessary financing well in advance.
- **Define institutional roles and accountabilities:** There must

be a clear separation between the government’s functions as an asset owner, policymaker, and regulator. This will make decision-making processes transparent, participatory, and accountable.

- **Reform fossil fuel and energy subsidies and reallocate financial resources:** Fossil-fuel subsidies cost the GCC around \$30 billion in 2016, matching Germany’s renewable energy subsidies in the same year. Reallocating merely a fraction of that subsidy to support private-sector-led developments of renewable energy with the grid could create tremendous value for governments, investors and electricity consumers.

“The GCC has ample solar and wind resources, a regional gas shortage along with growing domestic demand for hydrocarbons as fuel and feedstock, and an affordable means of financing renewable energy.”



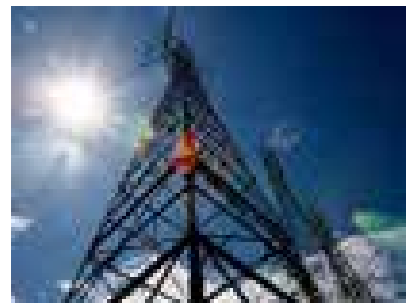
- **Broaden the range of financing instruments available:** Credit product innovations can help meet the requirements of the renewables market and increase the liquidity and competitive financing available for new projects. Public utilities and private developers need improved access to corporate bond and sukuk markets (Islamic law compliant bonds).
- **Unify regional standards:** The lack of unified renewables creates unnecessary trade and investment barriers. Establishing clear standards for wind and, to a lesser degree, solar would reduce these barriers among GCC

countries and the broader Middle East region.

- **Build policymaking and regulatory capabilities:** The large-scale deployment of renewable energy through privately led initiatives requires capabilities that are beyond those currently possessed by most ministries. To work together effectively, policymakers, regulators, owners, and operators can upgrade their capabilities in areas like technical and economic analysis, forecasting, simulations, communication, and management.

Commenting on the policy framework, Dr. Yahya Anouti, principal with Strategy& Middle

East, said: “The GCC states are in favorable positions to introduce more renewable energy. GCC governments can influence the timing and trajectory of this change, and can quickly get on the path to optimal renewable energy infrastructure development to minimize costs while helping achieve their national economic development objectives with the correct policies and decisions.”



Conservation

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

New partnership to educate UAE children on water conservation



Colgate-Palmolive and Surge Middle East come together as part of the global Colgate Save Water campaign with Champion Swimmer Michael Phelps to educate thousands of children about water conservation in the UAE.

Continuing its long-standing commitment to saving water, the Colgate-Palmolive Company has launched a new partnership with Surge Middle East - a global non-profit organization for water, sanitation, and hygiene projects - to raise awareness about water conservation among schoolchildren in the UAE as part of its global "Save Water" campaign.

The Colgate Save Water campaign is supported by champion swimmer Michael Phelps as its global ambassador. The

campaign's ultimate goal is to reach 100 million people and inspire 10 million children around the world to change their brushing habits by turning off the tap while brushing their teeth.

The year-long partnership with Surge includes training Colgate-Palmolive employees in Dubai to participate in Surge's primary school program 'Water: The Global Passport'. The program is designed to inspire young people to be careful about their water consumption habits through interactive activities, games and discussions. Colgate-Palmolive is

actively contributing to Surge's after-school Eco-Club program, which is built around four main themes: Water Footprint, Health & Hygiene, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Why Waste Water. The program is designed to raise awareness on the global water crisis and drive positive behaviors by combining knowledge, empathy and new ideas.

"Encouraging good habits at an early age can have a positive, lifelong influence on shaping behavior and can contribute to making children responsible



THE NEW partnership program is designed to raise awareness on the global water crisis and drive positive behaviors by combining knowledge, empathy and new ideas.

global citizens,” said Robert Carter, Marketing Director at Colgate-Palmolive. “We are proud to partner with Surge to convey this message to young people in the UAE while reinforcing the invaluable role they play in conserving the world’s most precious resource.”

“Colgate is found in nearly two-thirds of households around the world, and we have an opportunity to educate consumers about responsible water usage, including how simple, everyday acts such as turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save up to 15

liters of water at one time and cumulatively millions of liters of water in the region and worldwide every year.”

“We are excited to join hands with Colgate-Palmolive in the UAE on the important issue of water conservation,” said Linda Merieau, Director of Education Programs at Surge. “Our mission is to help increase awareness of the global water crisis, which is aligned with Colgate’s water saving efforts. We are looking forward to embarking on an educational journey with Colgate to enhance our new after-school Water

Champions program and mobilize their employee volunteers for our UAE school program ‘Water: The Global Passport.’”

During World Water Day on March 22, Colgate-Palmolive hosted the ‘H2O Games’, a corporate program developed by Surge, to instill a culture of conservation among its employees. This event engaged staff in experiential learning to bring understanding to the global water crisis situation and its potential effect on business and equipped employees to drive the global movement towards water sustainability.

Award

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

Etihad Eco-Residence wins green building award



Etihad Eco Residence is Abu Dhabi's first purpose-built, sustainable Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum rated cabin crew accommodation.

Masdar City's Etihad Eco-Residence has won the Green Residential Building award at the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Green Building Awards 2018. A team from Multiplex Constructions LLC, which built the complex, received the award for the Masdar-developed project at a recent ceremony in Dubai.

Designed by project partners Woods Bagot and Brewer Smith Brewer Group (BSBG), the Etihad Eco-Residence is

Platinum-certified according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building rating system - one of the world's most widely used green building codes. It is also rated 3 Pearls under the Estidama Pearl Building Rating System (PBRs), introduced for new buildings by the Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities, Abu Dhabi.

"The addition of the Etihad Eco-Residence to Masdar City further enhances the city's reputation as a leader in sustainable urban development while also raising awareness of

the distinct commercial benefits of environmentally responsible building construction," said Yousef Baselaib, Executive Director of Sustainable Real Estate at Masdar. "Masdar would like to congratulate all our partners on the success of the project, a deserving winner of the title of Green Residential Building 2018."

The complex features an airtight building 'envelope' comprising high-performance insulation, as well as solar thermal water heaters, a low window-to-wall ratio, and high albedo or solar-reflective index (SRI) coatings,



ETIHAD ECO-RESIDENCE is designed to promote biodiversity while minimising the use of 'high embodied energy' materials.

which reflect light away from the surface of a building with minimal absorption. All of these features result in an estimated 63 per cent reduction in total energy consumption compared with the Estidama PBRS baseline.

Meanwhile, the potable water consumption of the Eco-Residence is expected to be 40 percent lower than the Estidama PBRS baseline thanks to highly efficient water fixtures and the low water demand of the project's landscaping.

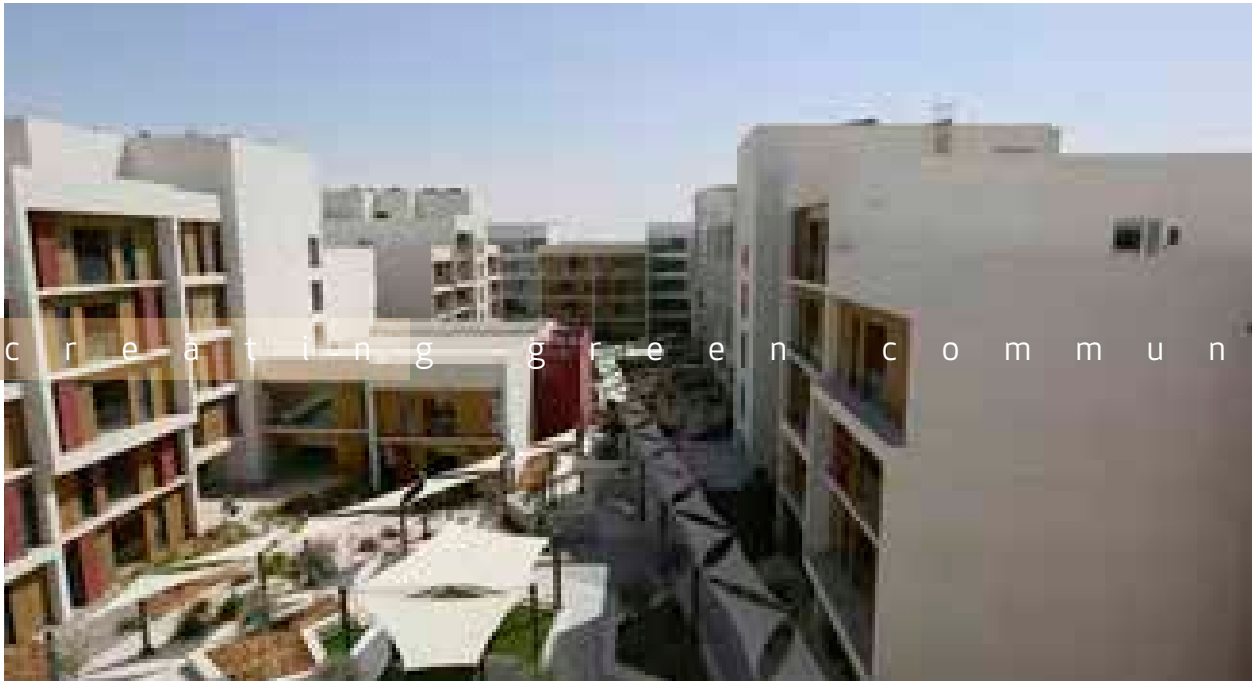
Richard Fenne, Principal and

Studio Chair of Woods Bagot, said, "The focus of the Etihad Eco-Residence's design has been to create a highly sustainable building which exemplifies the overall development of Masdar City. The development sets a new benchmark for efficient and commercially viable accommodation, responding directly to the pressing market needs in the region. A rigorous design approach, prioritising the use of passive design strategies, limited the number of unit types and facilitated the use of pioneering modular construction which has improved build quality

and construction timeframes."

The Etihad Eco-Residence incorporates numerous design features to enhance its sustainability. The shape and arrangement of the buildings themselves, together with its landscaping, protects against wind and dust while also promoting natural ventilation, contributing to the project's energy savings.

"Multiplex is proud to be part of the team that delivered yet another landmark project in Masdar City. The Etihad Eco-



Residence was designed and built with the highest quality and sustainability standards in mind and has resulted in one of the most resource efficient buildings within the region,” said Marcus Truscott, Managing Director for Multiplex.

Each of the buildings have been constructed using low-environment-impact materials, which reduce heat gain and the heat island effect within the complex itself, while maximising available natural daylight. Transport-related carbon emissions during the construction of the project were reduced by using a modular design, prefabricated systems and sourcing from local suppliers, with at least 20 per cent of the materials either

sourced or manufactured within 800 kilometres.

Solar hot water systems provide three-quarters (76%) of the community’s water demand, while each Etihad Eco-Residence apartment is equipped with highly energy efficient white goods. There are also operational waste recycling facilities on site, as well as bicycle parking to encourage more active lifestyles.

“The Etihad Eco-Residence is an example of a holistic approach to sustainable development,” said Nick Turbott, Director, BSBG. “We used our knowledge and experience in architectural sustainability, as well as the expertise of our partners in this field, to accomplish a community

for the future - and one that represents the UAE’s green objectives, as well as Masdar’s vision for the advancement of renewable energy, clean technologies and sustainable development.

“To have achieved such a level of recognition of the Etihad Eco-Residence, symbolised by winning the prestigious Emirates Green Building Council’s MENA award, is a huge honour and accomplishment for all parties involved,” he added.

Inaugurated in March, the Etihad Eco-Residence comprises 500 one- and two-bedroom apartments in 11 buildings, accommodating more than 900 Etihad Airways cabin crew.



Dubai Carbon recognises Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi's contribution to sustainable development

Dubai Carbon has honoured Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, with a framed copy of The Sustainabilist magazine to acknowledge his contribution to achieving the UAE's sustainable development goals.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi led the development of the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, spearheaded the establishment of the Emirates Committee for Sustainable Environment Research, facilitated several productive collaborations with the private sector and implemented multiple initiatives to support climate change policies in the UAE. All these achievements were

highlighted in The Sustainabilist, the UAE's leading resource on sustainable development.

Speaking on the accolade, Dr. Al Zeyoudi said, "I deeply appreciate this recognition. Raising awareness of best practices and trends in the field of sustainability is crucial to sustainable development in the UAE. Dubai Carbon's The Sustainabilist plays an instrumental role in achieving this priority."

"The UAE has taken a global lead in developing as a sustainable country and this requires not just technical solutions but a holistic approach. The commitment, passion and vision of Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi have

helped increase awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable practices across the seven emirates," said Ivano Iannelli, CEO of Dubai Carbon. "Dr. Al Zeyoudi is a prime example of a leader who inspires through words as well as actions. His commitment to the resolution of global sustainability issues has resulted in identifying innovative, practical solutions for sustainable growth, inspiring members of government and other organisations to follow suit. His knowledge and experience have been invaluable to the country and we are delighted to honour his dedication to fostering the growth of the sustainability movement in the UAE," he added.

Farming

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

Dubai to build world's largest vertical farming facility



Vertical farming is a proven, market-leading growing system used to produce fresh, nutritious and safe leafy greens on a daily basis, using 99% less water.

Emirates Flight Catering (EKFC) and Crop One will co-invest US\$40 million to build the world's largest vertical farming facility near Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central. The project is a joint venture with U.S.-based Crop One Holdings, the world's leading vertical farm operator.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group said: "This announcement is an important milestone for the Emirates Group, for Dubai, and for the UAE. This

investment to build and operate the world's largest vertical farming facility aligns with the UAE's drive for more agricultural self-sufficiency, a vision which began with the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's founding father.

"The introduction of ground-breaking technology at the facility also enhances Dubai's position as a global innovation hub," he said.

"As one of the world's largest airline catering operations, Emirates Flight Catering constantly looks at innovation,

and ways to improve our productivity, product and service quality. Introducing the latest technology to our operations, we secure our own supply chain of high quality and locally-sourced fresh vegetables, while significantly reducing our environmental footprint," said Saeed Mohammed, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Flight Catering.

"We are pleased to partner with Crop One, the industry's leading grower, packer and distributor, and a successful company that shares our corporate values.



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

VERTICAL FARMING is a sustainable, energy-efficient platform that maximizes agricultural self-sufficiency for the UAE.

Together we look forward to delivering a best-in-class product and excellent value to our customers and stakeholders,” he added.

“Our proven business model has demonstrated profitable commercial production longer than any other major vertical farmer,” said Sonia Lo, Chief Executive Officer of Crop One Holdings. “We are farmers using the most sophisticated plant science and proven business efficiencies to provide market leading consumer products every day. Our selection after

a 10-month search by EKFC is a validation of our successful business model that uses patented technology and processes to optimize crop yields and facilitate hyper-growth.”

When complete, the vertical farm facility will cover 130,000 square feet, but have a production output equivalent to 900 acres of farmland. At full production, the facility will harvest three US tons (2,700 kg) of high-quality, herbicide-free and pesticide-free leafy greens daily, using 99% less water than outdoor fields. The proximity of the farm to the point

of consumption also substantially reduces carbon emissions associated with transportation. It will also ensure the quick delivery of the fresh products, reaching customers within hours of harvest, maintaining high nutritional value.

The construction of the facility is scheduled to start in November 2018 and will take approximately one year to complete. The first products are expected to be delivered to Emirates Flight Catering’s customers, including 105 airlines and 25 airport lounges, in December 2019.

Biodiversity

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

MoCCAEC develops plan for shark conservation



[The development of the National Plan of Action, NPOA, comes as part of a response mechanism to conserve UAE's biodiversity and ensure the long-term survival of sharks and rays.](#)

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCAEC, has launched the National Plan of Action, NPOA, for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2018-2021 that presents concrete steps to promote shark conservation and sustainability in the UAE.

The plan has four main objectives: enhancing knowledge of shark species and their role in the ecosystem among the population, implementing effective policy, legislation and enforcement mechanisms and developing a

national, regional and global cooperation framework, enabling effective conservation through capacity building, and running educational and outreach programmes to raise public awareness.

The NPOA provides an overview of the current status of cartilaginous fish in the country with a special focus on sharks and rays.

At present, there are 43 shark species and 29 ray species recorded in the UAE's waters, with 42 percent of these considered endangered as per

the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

The plan will also identify the challenges that have led to a decline in shark stocks, most notably commercial and recreational fishing, land- and sea-based pollution, coastal development, habitat alteration, and climate change.

Shark populations in the country have witnessed a decline in recent years as a result of over-fishing, mainly due to the high value of their fins, meat, and gill plates.



A TOTAL of 43 shark and 29 batoid species have been recorded from UAE waters of the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman.

Commenting on the announcement, Hiba Al Shehhi, Acting Director of the Biodiversity Department at MoCCA, said, “The NPOA is part of the ministry’s strategy to preserve the UAE’s biodiversity, and ensure the long-term survival of sharks and rays.”

She outlined the indicators for measuring the effectiveness of the NPOA, such as community awareness about the importance of shark conservation, status of the shark population, improved management of marine protected areas, and the extinction risk

faced by individual shark species.

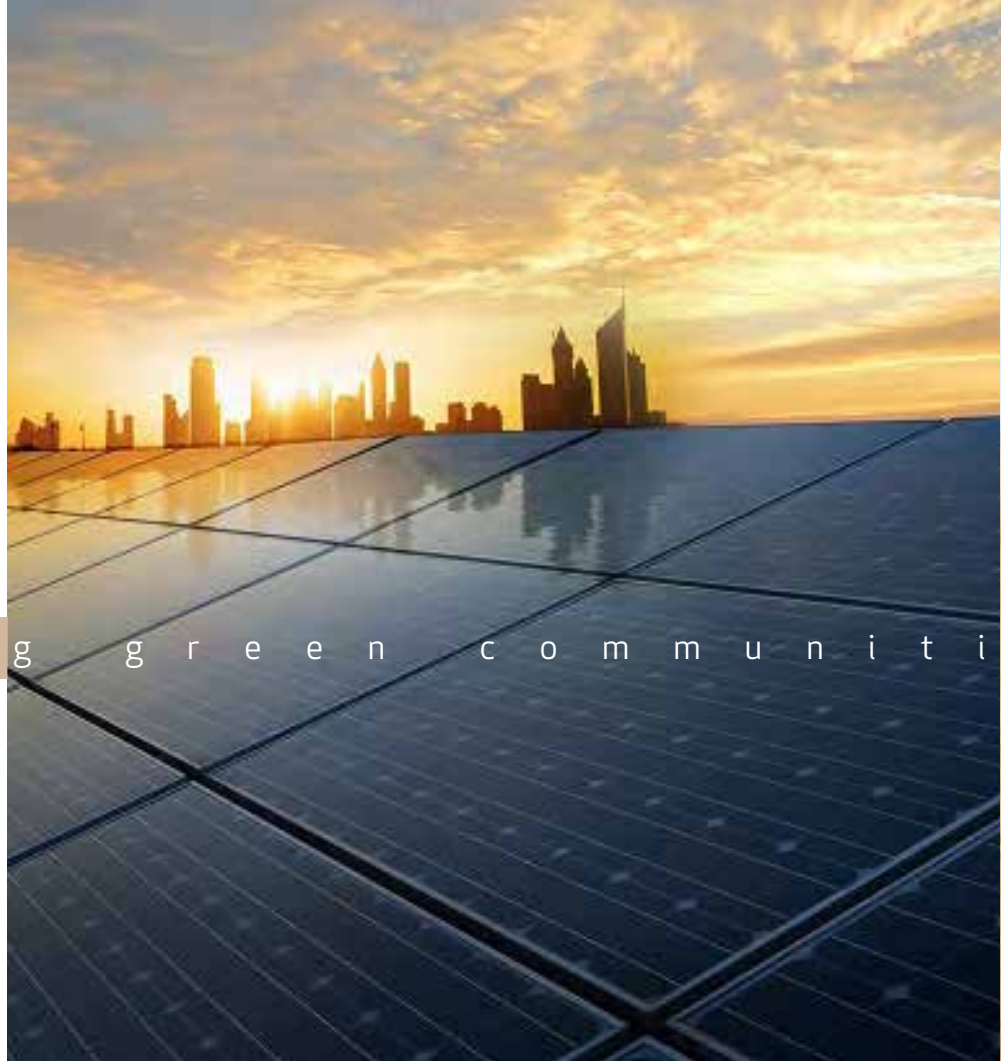
Coinciding with the launch of the Plan, MoCCA issued the UAE Shark Assessment Report, the first national overview of shark research and protective measures in the UAE. The document offers a valuable database that will support the execution of the plan. The Report states that the UAE has a unique and rich biodiversity with diverse ecosystems and habitats. Like other countries in the region, the UAE’s biodiversity is threatened by the overexploitation of its resources, climate change,

habitat destruction, and urban development.

The Report states that a total of 43 shark and 29 batoid species have been recorded from UAE waters of the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman.

Following its four-year implementation (2018-2021) timeline, NPOA will undergo a consultative revision to enable an adaptive management approach, and ensure the attainment of its strategic objectives and overall vision. The plan is available to the public on the ministry’s website.

UAE is actively involved in global efforts to address impacts of climate change: DEWA



In an Opinion Editorial, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, outlines UAE's commitment in combating climate change and achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

The UAE has played an important role in the negotiations that led to an agreement to combat climate change, at the International Conference of the Parties in 2015 (COP21), in Paris, where countries pledged their commitment to reduce emissions and combat climate change.

"This highlights UAE's commitment in combating climate change, and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, to mobilise efforts to eradicate poverty, combat inequality, address climate change

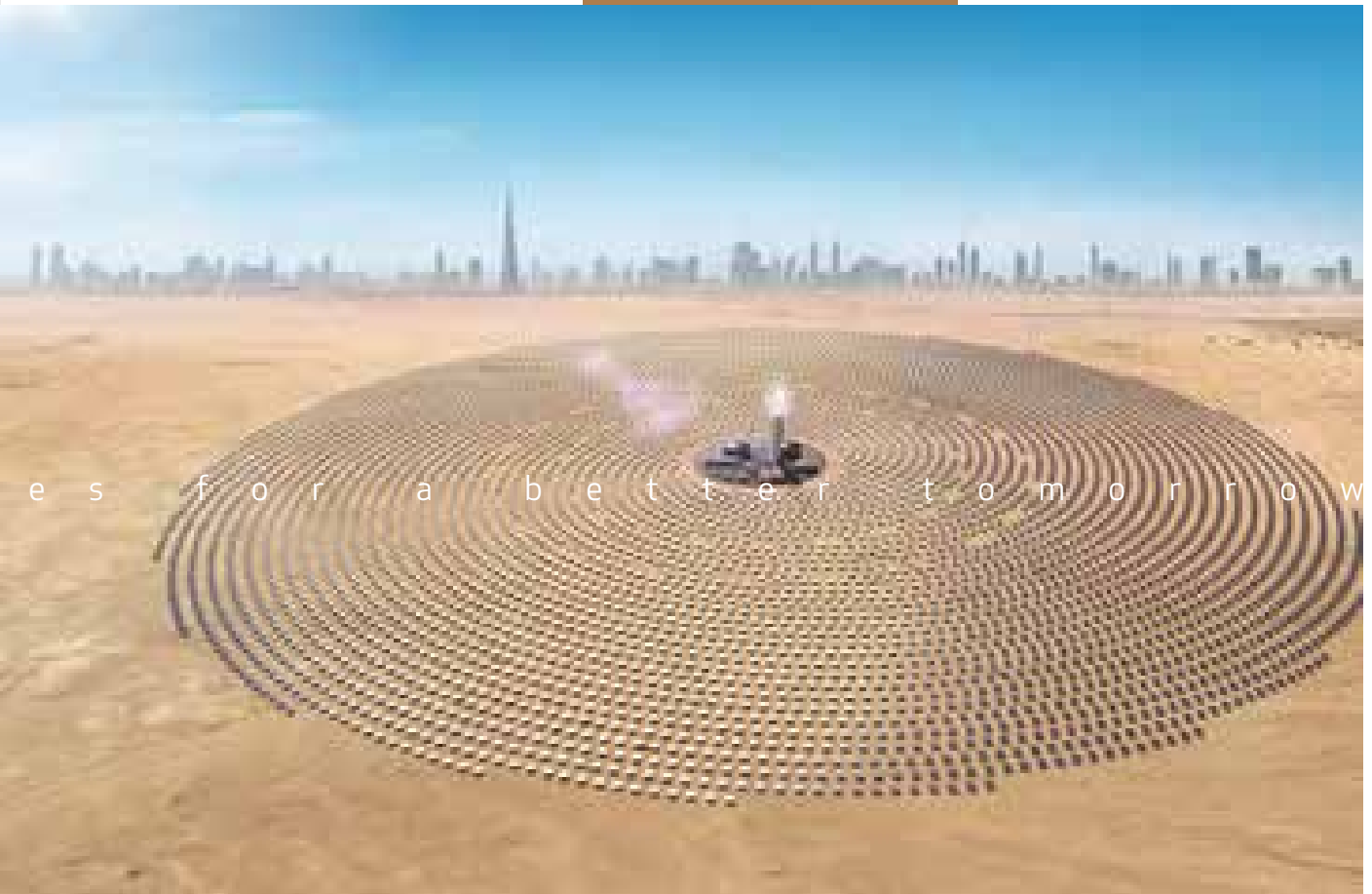
and develop vital and strategic sectors as impacts of climate change will require serious action from governments and countries," said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA).

"Governments and countries are expected to take comprehensive action to reduce carbon footprint, reduce emissions and conserve natural resources for a bright future for our future generations, with a clean, healthy and sustainable environment," Al Tayer

wrote in an Opinion Editorial.

He said, "Climate change has become the most pressing issue for the global community today. Its widespread effects and consequences are already being seen in our lifetime. Changing weather patterns threaten food production, rising water levels increase the risk of catastrophic floods or irreversible changes in major ecosystems. They may also affect health, agriculture, economy, society, biodiversity among others.

The UAE was one of the first



es for a better tomorrow

DUBAI IS moving forward in the fields of renewable energy, sustainability and the environment and enhancing its efficiency.

countries to support the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, to curb GHG emissions in industrialised countries, in addition to being the first country in the region to sign the Copenhagen Agreement, during the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties, to support the long-term agreement towards reducing emissions.

Dubai is moving forward in the fields of renewable energy, sustainability and the environment and enhancing its efficiency. The Supreme Council of Energy has set a strategy to reduce carbon emissions by 16

percent, equivalent to reducing 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2021. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to transform the Emirate into a global hub for clean energy and green economy by providing 7 percent of Dubai's energy from clean energy sources by 2020, 25 percent by 2030 and 75 percent by 2050.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) strives to support national efforts to

promote sustainability and transition to a green economy through the launch of green projects, initiatives and programmes to increase reliance on clean energy and improving the efficiency of energy and water production and consumption. The projects include the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which is the largest single-site solar project in the world based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model. It will produce 5,000 MW by 2030, with a total investment of AED 50 billion. When completed, the project will achieve a reduction of



approximately 6.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

DEWA launched Etihad Energy Services Company (Etihad ESCO), to provide promising investment opportunities to companies specialising in energy efficiency. DEWA is working to retrofit over 30,000 buildings to ensure energy efficiency. In adherence with the Demand Side Management strategy, the project will reduce energy consumption by 30 percent by 2030. We are cooperating with Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corporation (EMPOWER), the world's largest district cooling system provider in the world, to highlight the benefits of district cooling for public and private sectors on an

international level.

Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence works to develop a green economy, by developing new operational standards to reduce carbon emissions in daily activities. The United Nation Framework on Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) announced the launch of the UAE Solar Power Programme, in cooperation with the Dubai Carbon Centre for Excellence (Dubai Carbon), to enhance the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in all ongoing solar projects.

The impacts of climate change will require serious action from governments and countries. They are expected to take

comprehensive action to reduce carbon footprint, reduce emissions and conserve natural resources for a bright future for our future generations, with a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, Al Tayer stated.





DOE announces Reverse Osmosis Independent Water Project at Taweelah

The Department of Energy, DOE, Abu Dhabi has announced the list of qualified companies to compete over the selection of a developer or developer consortium of the Independent Water Project, IWP, who will own up to 40 percent of the project's share. This will be established in accordance with Abu Dhabi and the UAE's laws concerning the production of RO desalinated water by independent producers at a capacity of 200 MIGD.

The project includes the development, financing, establishment, operation, maintenance and ownership of the water desalination plant at a capacity of 200 MIGD, in addition to the related infrastructure.

The plant will be constructed at the Taweelah power and water complex, approximately 45 kms north of Abu Dhabi city.

Awaidha Murshed Al Marar, Chairman of the DOE, stated, "This project will support Abu Dhabi's steps towards sustainability and energy mix, in line with the vision of the late founding father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who urged excellence and leadership in the environment field.

"We seek to develop and promote the emirate's infrastructure through projects that can meet the increasing demand on the different energy sectors. By introducing the Taweelah RO

Project, we assure the readiness of the energy and infrastructure sector and its high efficiency, besides keeping pace with the latest technologies. In addition, we are creating competitive opportunities for developers and attracting international companies to benefit from their experiences in the field of services quality. Further, we affirm our efforts to utilise the natural resources and achieve its sustainability in line with the emirate's Economic Vision and the UAE Energy Strategy 2050."

Mohamed bin Jarsh Al Falasi, the Under-Secretary of the DOE, said that the plant will strengthen the UAE's position as a leading site for IWPP projects in partnership with the private sector.

Agriculture

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

UAE, Netherlands
discuss
sustainability
technologies,
best practices in
agriculture



From 26th to 28th June, a UAE delegation explored new areas of cooperation with relevant entities in the Netherlands, including the use of smart technologies to improve the quantity and quality of agricultural production and combat plant pests and diseases.

A UAE delegation, led by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has concluded a three-day official visit to the Netherlands.

The delegates explored key topics of mutual interest with Dutch officials, including the use of smart technologies, such as artificial intelligence and precision agriculture to improve the quantity and quality of agricultural production and combat plant pests and diseases.

Other members of the delegation

comprised Dr. Kaltham Kayaf, Head of the Animal Health Section at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment; Abdul Nasser Al Shamsi, CEO of Rawafed; Omar Al Jundi, CEO of Badia Farms; and Mohammed Khalfan, General Manager of Al Dahra Holding.

From 26th to 28th June, the delegation met Carola Schouten, Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water

Management; Marcel Beukeboom, Special Envoy for Climate Change; and Reina Buijs, Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegates explored new areas of cooperation with relevant entities in the Netherlands and exchanged experience in climate change research. Discussions focused on leveraging the latest technologies to collect climate data that can be used to shape strategies and policies.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi highlighted the



es for a better tomorrow

DURING THE visit, Dr. Al Zeyoudi highlighted the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, its vision and project deliverables.

National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, its vision and project deliverables. The plan garnered high praise from the Dutch officials as an impressive contribution to global efforts in combating the impacts of climate change.

Speaking about the visit, Dr. Al Zeyoudi said, “The UAE enjoys deep-rooted ties with the Netherlands that bind our two nations on multiple fronts. Our visit aimed to build on our strong bilateral relations and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

“We also sought to share expertise in relevant areas and lay a solid foundation for future partnerships between the private and public sectors in both countries,” he added.

As part of the agenda, the delegates toured Deltares, an institute for applied research in the field of water, subsurface and infrastructure where they learned about climate change, groundwater and salinity modelling methods used in the Netherlands.

During their visit to the

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research and the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands, the delegation inspected an integrated system for improving air quality through storing and recycling carbon dioxide for use in diverse sectors.

Moreover, the delegation toured the Wageningen University and Research a world-class educational institution dedicated to life sciences, agriculture and environmental science and received a briefing on the environment-related majors offered at the university.

Schools in Dubai invited to participate in Building Efficiency Accelerator project



By evaluating energy and water data shared by schools, the project aims to assess the energy and water saving potential of school buildings.

Emirates Green Building Council, EmiratesGBC, has invited private schools in Dubai to participate in its Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) Benchmarking Project, which aims to establish the first industry energy and water benchmark for schools in the UAE. The deadline for submissions is 15th June, 2018.

A first-of-its-kind in the MENA Region, EmiratesGBC's BEA project assesses the energy and water performance of existing buildings against similar buildings within the

same typology. Schools are one of three building typologies selected for this project, because of their operational and social importance.

By evaluating energy and water data shared by schools, the project aims to assess the energy and water saving potential of school buildings. This initiative is an important step forward in encouraging Dubai based schools to improve their building efficiency year on year, and save on their operational costs.

There are about 165 private

schools in Dubai which can play a pivotal role in supporting the government's target of reducing energy and water usage by 30% by 2030, as per Dubai's Demand Side Management Strategy.

The BEA is an opportunity for schools to take a step toward understanding and improving their environmental performance and supporting Dubai's energy reduction directives.

Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman of EmiratesGBC, said, "Benchmarking is an important step for schools to evaluate



The BEA project is a global initiative led by World Resources Institute (WRI) under the UN programme Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll).

their energy and water usage. It enables the sector to make decisions backed by solid data on how to improve their consumption rates and track their progress.

“Energy and water management are inherently embedded into the core of green schools, and today, a very limited number of schools fulfil the requirements to be sustainable. Educational institutions are a priority sector and we therefore encourage all schools in Dubai to participate in the BEA benchmarking project and become leaders, and advocates, in the drive to

sustainable development in the UAE,” he added.

The BEA project is a global initiative led by World Resources Institute (WRI) under the UN programme Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), which aims to double the global rate of building energy efficiency by 2030.

Dubai is the first and only city in the Middle East committed to the BEA, and EmiratesGBC is serving as the BEA City Liaison in partnership with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy to measure energy performance of 100

buildings in Dubai across three focus groups – Hotels, Schools and Malls.

EmiratesGBC delivers a suite of technical projects and regularly hosts and participates in multinational events, conferences and forums.

It has also developed a suite of activities, inclusive of networking events, technical workshops, focus days and facilitated training based around specific issues related to the built-environment that meet the needs of the UAE community, and the wider Middle East.

Interview

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

The art of
empowering
and working
with the mining
communities



In an interview with *Society & Environment*, Dev Shetty, President and CEO of Fura Gems Inc., the first gemstone mining and marketing company to be headquartered in the DMCC, Dubai, discusses best practices and ethical operations within the industry.

1. Which countries does Fura Gems operate out of in terms of mining operations?

Fura is currently mining for emeralds in Colombia and rubies in Mozambique. We own one of Colombia's most iconic emerald mine, Coscuez emerald mine, and we also have four ruby mining licenses in Mozambique. We have already started production in Colombia and are expecting to go into bulk sampling Mozambique in July 2018.

2. Local communities getting disrupted with negative consequences for their livelihood

has been seen as a pitfall of mining operations globally. How do you avoid the same and engage with the local community?

Your concerns are genuine. However, the mining industry is transforming rapidly.

Fura's vision statement states: "As a progressive and imaginative company, we aim to set the new precedent for best practices in the gemstone industry by transforming current standards into the premiere example of employee-friendly, sustainability-driven, community-centred enterprise." This is a

clear indication that our local community is very important to us. We surely believe as we grow, the community that we operate in also needs to grow.

Even before we started mining in Colombia, we hired a team of 4 people to engage with the local community and understand their needs and also explain what we were planning to do. During this pre-socialisation period we had a 94% approval from the community. Since we have started to mine, we again went and engaged with the community, and again did a socialisation connect



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

BY PARTNERING with mining communities, Fura has committed to providing its employees a safe environment that encourages growth and sustainable development.

with the society and our approval rating remains the same at 94%.

To give you a few examples of how we are changing things - we completed our Colombia transaction, on the 22nd January and instead of mining the very next day, we sent all the workers for a skill development and health and safety training for 8 weeks. We took this time to also make the mine safe, because we believe that the life of each of our employees is very precious. We want to ensure that we provide a very safe working environment for each of our employees.

You will be also surprised to know that mine workers in the Colombian emerald industry were never paid fixed wages. Every time they had production, workers were given the low-quality emeralds as wages. We are changing that. We have offered all our workers fixed contracts. They will be getting fixed salary, insurance, pensions etc.

3. Industries such as mining are often seen treading a very fine line when it comes to conducting operations sustainably. How does Fura Gems counter this mindset?

At Fura, we are engaging with the

society almost on a daily basis. We want to provide as much local employment as possible. Just to give you an example, since completing the acquisition of Coscuez emerald mine, we have hired almost 240 employees. Of these, 232 are local Colombians. So, creating local employment is very important for us.

In addition to that, we have also launched several CSR programs in Colombia close to the end of May 2018. The initial focus would be on empowering the women on the ground and also the children of the community. We are setting



up an education program for local children of the community. Since football is a major draw in Colombia, we are setting up a football academy for children along with a large Colombia football club. Additionally, we are setting up bakeries and confectionaries for local women.

4. What can these communities expect in terms of training, employment and the like?

Skill development is something that every worker will be given. These people have been used to a very basic method of mining for all these years and we want them to improve their productivity through skill development training. We will also try and retain as many of the old workers as possible. We also ensure that

we provide essential health services and adequate safety to all our employees.

5. What is the message you would like to share with the global mining community around the field of sustainability?

I feel it is very important to take care of the areas and the communities that we mine in. Understanding local environmental laws and operating within the set laws is something we strongly believe in and practice. I would urge other companies to follow the same. All of us have a duty towards the environment and the community. We should leave them at a much better state when we finish mining than what we had when we started.





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

Signify harnesses the power of sunlight in Africa, Asia and Middle East

Signify, the world leader in lighting, is harnessing the power of sunlight in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. After an initial product launch in India earlier this year, Signify is introducing Philips SunStay, an integrated solar street light, and Philips LifeLight, an innovative solar lantern, in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Vietnam and on the African continent.

“As one of the fastest growing and most sustainable segments in public lighting, solar lighting is making a noticeable difference in rural areas and provides a much safer option to fuel-based lighting,” said Goktug Gur, President and CEO of Signify’s business in the Middle East,

Turkey and Pakistan. “In the Middle East, almost 7% of all carbon dioxide emitted is caused by lighting; solar lighting is a far more energy efficient solution,” he added.

Philips SunStay combines solar panel, luminaire, charge controller and battery in one housing. This makes it compact, easy to install and maintain. It also helps save on cabling costs, reduces carbon footprint and lowers overall capital and operational expenditure. With an output of 2,000 and 3,000 lumens and an efficacy of 175 lm/W, SunStay is more efficient than existing solar street lights.

Philips LifeLight is suitable for indoor and outdoor and

designed for people in off-grid communities. The lantern comes with a USB port for charging phones and other devices, which is a widely appreciated feature. The second generation LifeLight has a new replaceable battery to extend its life further.

On top of bringing light to households without electricity, solar-powered lanterns improve people’s health and can save lives. According to WHO, fuel-based lighting and heating cause close to 4 million deaths each year as people light and cook their homes through woodfires, candles and kerosene.

Signify became the new company name of Philips Lighting as of May 16, 2018.

Turning the spotlight on the 'true value' of land



On World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, the UN draws attention to land issues and educates the public about effective methods of achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.

Land is not a limitless resource and ignoring its role in our everyday lives threatens food and water supplies, biodiversity and the security of us all, the UN agency that fights desertification worldwide has said.

In a statement marking the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, the head of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) said that everyone needed to recognize the true value of land. "I would ask you: when you choose what to eat, what to wear or

what to drive, think about how your choice impacts the land for better or for worse," said Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive Secretary, in her message for the day, marked on 17 June.

Land-grabbing, unplanned urban sprawl, unsustainable agriculture and over-consumption can yield quick economic gains, but such short-sightedness eventually causes degradation and loss of critical ecosystem services due to unsustainable land use.

As a result, a third of the world's usable land has already severely

degraded over the last 30 years, with 75 billion tons of soil from arable land lost annually, said UNCCD.

However, the UNCCD says all can contribute to, and benefit from, investing in sustainable land management as consumers, producers, corporations or governments. Farmers can invest in smart agriculture with higher yields but reduced pesticides. Policymakers and land managers can invest in sustainable land management while consumers can choose to spend on organic and fair-trade products.



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

THIS YEAR'S World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) focuses on consumers making smart decisions and investments in sustainable land management.

“Let us work together to transform the way we consume, produce, work, and live together without compromising our current or future social, economic or environmental security. Without compromising the land on which it all depends,” said Barbut.

The UN General Assembly established the World Day in 1994 to promote public awareness of land degradation and to draw attention to the implementation of the UNCCD the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land

management. The World Day is observed annually on 17 June.

This year's theme for the Day is “Land has true value invest in it.” The campaign hopes to promote changes in behaviour and adoption of more efficient planning and practices, to ensure there are sufficient land resources for the world's long-term sustainability and economic prosperity.

This year's World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is focusing on sustainable land management (SLM). SLM is key to balancing out ecosystems,

boosting local economies and creating jobs, while actively involving producers, consumers and decision-makers.

According to a 2015 FAO report, over one-third of farmland worldwide could be moderately or seriously damaged by erosion, salinisation, compacting, acidification and chemical pollution of soil. This drop in soil quality has a direct impact on crop productivity. According to the specialised UK research institute, Rothamsted, if we continue to deplete the soil, farmland productivity will drop by 30% by 2050.



Green Flash



Is Food Packaging a Health Hazard?

City residents, who lead busy lifestyles, prefer to buy packaged food due to its convenience and availability. Packaging plays an important role in maintaining food quality, extending its shelf life and reducing food wastage. However, chemicals in packaging materials can contaminate foods and cause health problems.

One important group of chemicals known as PFAS (Per- and Poly-Fluoralkyl Substances) are greaseproof, waterproof and nonstick industrial compounds used in consumer products. These chemicals slowly accumulate in the body over a period of time. They have been found in human blood, urine and breast milk. PFAS have been associated with liver problems, benign tumors and has an impact on fertility and development.

Exposure to PFAS chemicals may also increase the risk of liver damage, cancer, thyroid disease and endocrine disruption. They have been associated with increased risk of pregnancy-induced hypertension and seizures and may reduce the effectiveness of vaccines in children.

One of the most important sources of these chemicals is fast food wrappers and containers. US FDA tests found that PFAS chemicals can migrate out of food wrappers to contaminate food, especially greasy food. Fluorinated chemicals were found in 40 percent of the fast food wrappers tested, including sandwiches, pizza, fried chicken and pastries. PFAS chemicals were also found in microwave popcorn bags, drinking water, cosmetics and clothing.

This is yet another reason to avoid fast food and greasy carryout whenever possible, especially for children and pregnant women as it can lower a baby's birth weight. Children are more exposed to these chemicals, ingesting them in breast milk and when putting their hands in their mouths after touching contaminated materials.

Washington issued the first state law in USA to ban toxic fluorinated chemicals from food packaging in March 2018. San Francisco is considering a ban of PFAS chemicals from single-use food ware like containers, cups and utensils. California is considering legislation requiring manufacturers of food packaging and cookware to label their products with a warning if the products contain PFAS.

Regarding containers, glass is safe but metal caps may contain a chemical (phthalate) interfering with hormonal functions. Aluminum cans may contain a carcinogenic pesticide (ortho-phenylphenol) used to kill bacteria and fungi. Plastic packaging is the most controversial because it contains a chemical linked to adverse effects on the brain and reproductive health of children. Plastics for juice and milk cartons (polyolefins) contain a compound (benzophenone) that interferes with reproductive health of women. Use of paper and cardboard boxes for packaging foods is also debatable as printing ink may leach into foods causing hormonal disturbances. Recycled paper boxes may be contaminated with diisobutyl phthalate and di-n-butyl phthalate which can cause digestion problems and severe toxicity.

It is about time that the international community and World Health Organization stand up to the food industry in order to change the whole concept of packaging.

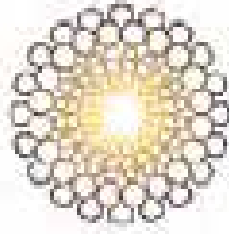
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