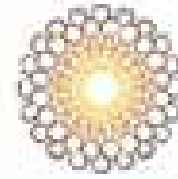


AUGUST 2018

# Society & Environment

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EXPO 2020 دبي  
معرض دولي للتجارة والثقافة  
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

ISSUE 102

CREATING GREEN COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Arab League honours  
Mohammed bin Rashid with  
'Shield for Leadership in  
Arab Development'

14th Liwa Date Festival concludes, attracts over 80,000 visitors



## **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

It was a moment of great pride and honor for the UAE and the entire Arab world when His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai was honoured by the Arab League in recognition of his contributions to the development of the Arab world.

Conferred the Shield for Leadership in Arab Development for leading initiatives and his role in empowering Arab communities, spreading knowledge and creating a more stable future for the region, this pan-Arab award is a well-deserved honour for a visionary leader.

Sheikh Mohammed's non-conventional vision and broad humanitarian horizons have helped instil the values of creativity, compassion and innovation in Dubai, inspiring people to take the initiative to work for the development of the homeland. Today, the emirate has become an example for the region to follow as its innovative ideas and massive projects have transcended the UAE's borders for the development and modernisation of the Arab region.

In the words of Sheikh Mohammed: "A man has two choices, either to be a follower or a leader, and we greatly aspire to be pioneers."

Through his exemplary model of competitiveness and leadership, HH Sheikh Mohammed has placed people at the cornerstone of the nation's development journey and to contribute to a more secure future for the nation. By empowering people and harnessing their positive energy, he has created an environment where people are seen as a key pillar to achieve progress, development and prosperity. His creative thinking and vision is thus empowering Arab societies, shaping the future and helping build a more stable world.

# Contents

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



## Cover Story 6

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid honored with 'Shield for Leadership in Arab Development'



## Forum 14

Spotlight on UAE's environmental efforts at Urban Sustainability Week

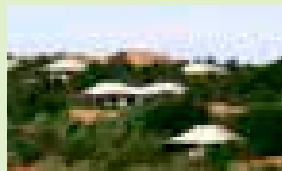
## Lecture 18

'Development vision of Sheikh Zayed created a new history for UAE'



## Workshop 26

MoCCAЕ to launch national action plan for climate change adaptation



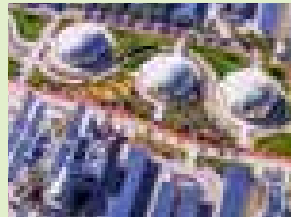
## Ecotourism 30

MoCCAЕ announces National Ecotourism Project



## Agriculture 36

UAE, China ink two agreements on strengthening agricultural cooperation



## Sustainability 44

Pioneering Greenhouse Gas Inventory leads to reduced emissions at The Sustainable City in 2017

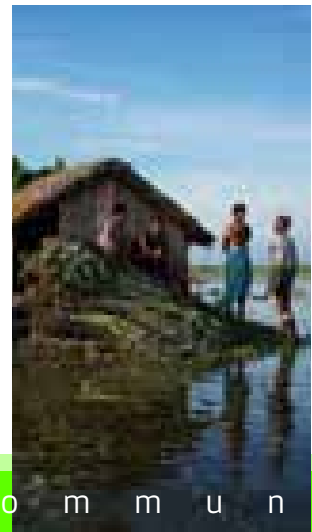
## Conservation 50

\$5.6m construction work on Abu Dhabi wildlife centre completed



## Energy 54

'Renewable energy is the future direction of all markets'



## Sustainability 58

UN Environment and Google announce ground-breaking partnership to protect our planet



## Eco-home 60

Sustainable modern living with new eco-housing module



## Awards 65

Five eco-inclusive enterprises receive prestigious SEED Low Carbon Awards

*“Arab civilization once played a great role in contributing to human knowledge, and will play that role again.”*

*Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

See

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

It was an extremely proud moment for the UAE when HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, was honored with the Arab League Shield for Leadership in Arab Development for his pioneering contributions in empowering Arab communities and his leadership role in the field of sustainable development in the Arab world.

Sheikh Mohammed's visionary leadership has enhanced the nation's competitiveness in all spheres of development through creativity and innovation, and his international humanitarian programmes that exemplify the path of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, stems from

the country's cultural ethos which reflects the values established by the Founding Father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Following in the path adopted by the late Sheikh Zayed has propelled the UAE as a leading nation in shaping the future of the world. With its unwavering focus on sustainability, the country has become a pioneer in exploring ways to build a cleaner and more energy-efficient future — not just for itself, but for the region and beyond.

At an event co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, in collaboration with Dubai Police and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation in New York last month, I took the opportunity to advance Sheikh Zayed's legacy and vision and highlighted his leadership in environmental sustainability both at the regional and international levels. Sheikh Zayed's dedication to sustainability came 41 years before the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, and his dreams have been translated into the policies and programmes that we see in the UAE today.

The UAE has emerged at the forefront of environmental sustainability by following in the path of his great legacy. The creation of a long-term national programme for green development in the UAE also demonstrates the vision of our wise leadership in achieving a better future through securing sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the people of the UAE.

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COVER STORY

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

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid honored with 'Shield for Leadership in Arab Development'



The Arab League honor recognises Sheikh Mohammed's development efforts and his unconventional vision in empowering Arab communities.

**The prestigious 'Arab League Shield for Leadership in Arab Development' recognises H.H. Sheikh Mohammed's efforts in leading development initiatives not only in the UAE but also the Arab world.**

**T**he Arab League has honoured Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum with the 'Arab League Shield for Leadership in Arab Development' in recognition of his contributions to the development of the Arab world, and his innovative vision for empowering Arab communities, spreading knowledge, and creating a stable and brighter future.

The prestigious shield recognises H.H. Sheikh Mohammed's efforts in leading development initiatives

not only in the UAE but also the Arab world.

"We see government work as a journey towards making ourselves more competitive. In the UAE, we love to work on enhancing our competitiveness and we believe that the government is a key engine for the development of all sectors," Sheikh Mohammed said.

"The Arab world needs to transform its administrative operations and shed conventional ways of thinking. We need a clear vision to enhance the effectiveness of government."



THE AWARD is given to exceptional personalities and role models in the field of sustainable development in the Arab world.

Sheikh Mohammed further said: "The best contribution a citizen can make to his country and society is to help enhance government processes, because they drive progress in every sphere.

The UAE is part of the Arab world, and we are keen to share our experiences with those who want to learn from them."

Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit said that H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid is a symbol of development in the Arab world due to his leading

initiatives, creative thinking and vision. "From an early stage, Sheikh Mohammed knew that meaningful development can be achieved only when all sectors are comprehensively addressed, and that the human being is the cornerstone of any development journey.

Enabling Arab people and equipping them with the right tools to be creative and achieve happiness and prosperity should be top priorities for development projects," Aboul-Gheit said.

"Sheikh Mohammed was able

to deeply instill the values of creativity and innovation in Dubai, which has become a symbol of Arab pride, and an example for the region to follow. When we look at Dubai, we see an innovative government that inspires people to take the initiative, and constantly work towards creating a bright future," he added.

Aboul-Gheit also said that Dubai's development model places human assets at its centre instead of natural resources which we can potentially run out of. "His Highness considers the role of the government to enable



people to unleash their positive energies, and create a conducive environment for creativity and innovation,” Aboul-Gheit added.

Minister of Cabinet Affairs and The Future Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi received the Award on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid at a ceremony held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

The Arab League Shield for Leadership in Arab Development is awarded to exceptional personalities and role models in the field of sustainable development in the Arab world.

The UAE ranks number one globally in 50 indices in vital community and service sectors,

according to the Global Competitiveness Index 2017-2018.

Key indices that the UAE leads both in the region and the world include the quality of government decisions, the government’s ability to adapt to changes, the effectiveness of government spending, and the absence of a tax effect on investment attractiveness as well as the education sector.

It also has top rankings in areas like public-private partnerships, development and application of technology, the quality of tourism infrastructure, corporate digitisation, gender equity, tolerance of foreigners and low violent crime.

His Highness is leading a number of development and humanitarian initiatives through The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, which includes 33 establishments and initiatives. In 2017, The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives spent AED1.8 billion on alleviating poverty, boosting education and providing humanitarian aid to 69 million people in 68 countries.







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

## International Fund for Houbara Conservation, Natural Heritage Foundation of Castile and Leon sign MoU

The International Fund for Houbara Conservation, IFHC, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with the Natural Heritage Foundation of Castile and Leon in Spain, to harness their knowledge and expertise to preserve the “Small Houbara Bustard,” which BirdLife International warns as being threatened with extinction.

The MoU, which was signed in Abu Dhabi, aims to conduct a field study to evaluate the numbers of birds and their current status in the Spanish provinces of Castile and Leon, as well as to form a joint scientific committee and create effective programmes to preserve this species.

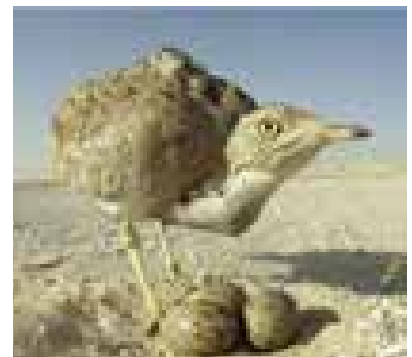
Both sides agreed to work

together to establish an experimental project, through an integrated ecological monitoring protocol and to preserve the species, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Spain and the European Commission.

Majid Ali Al Mansouri, Managing Director of the IFHC, said, “Abu Dhabi has a long record of success with its proactive model in preserving the species, and we look forward to working with our international partners to apply our knowledge and expertise in preserving these species, which might face the threat of extinction.”

The small Houbaras are considered the birds of the

northern hemisphere. They form two separate geographic groups: the Western Group in the European Union countries and the Eastern Group in South Eurasia. The total number is estimated at around 260,000 adult birds, 60 percent of which are present in the Western Group, with between 71,000 and 147,000 birds in Spain.



Cover Story

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

Liwa Date Festival concludes, attracts over 80,000 visitors



The Liwa Date Festival is an annual event that introduces date producers to modern agricultural practices and facilitates the exchange of expertise on the best ways to produce the highest quality date.

More than 80,000 people, including tourists and heritage lovers, visited the 14th Liwa Date Festival, which came to an end on 28th July, in Al Gharbia, Abu Dhabi's Western Region.

The 11 day-event offered heritage lovers colourful activities, cultural celebrations, traditional performance and competitions, where a number farmers were rewarded for producing the best types of date through the season.

A delegation comprising a number of Sheikhs and dignitaries

from Socotra, Yemen, visited the festival and got firsthand experience on the latest techniques followed in producing different types of date in the UAE.

The festival, held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and organised by the Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee - Abu Dhabi, is aimed at preserving the heritage related to palm trees and to celebrate the season of Rotab (dates) when the fruit starts to mature.

Obaid Khalfan Al Mazroui, director of the festival, attributed the success achieved by the event to the large number of visitors who attended its different activities.

"The festival has become a source of attraction for farmers and heritage lovers and proved to be a significant platform to revive the country's deeply-rooted cultural legacy and accelerate the economy," he added.

**Exchange of technical expertise**

The Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee



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

THE FESTIVAL hosted outstanding events, notably competitions, date auctions, lectures that sought to raise awareness on the importance of the palm tree, special workshops for children, poetry evenings, popular games and others.

- Abu Dhabi organised the 14th Liwa Date Festival, from 18th to 28th July in Liwa, Al Dhafra Region.

The annual event sought to facilitate the exchange of technical expertise among farmers and transform the date palm tree into a symbol of Emirati perseverance in the past, a source of wealth in the present, and a guarantee of prosperity for the future.

The palm tree which has played a great role in catering to the nutritional and daily life needs

of the human communities in the desert, is the source of the most beloved fruit that is in the very center of the festival.

The festival attracted a large audience for its events and activities, which made it a forum for exchanging expertise and knowledge with all those concerned with date agriculture, as well as for promoting date products and helping to achieve sustainability, which was encouraged by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan through activities and programmes that supported

date farmers and workers and encouraged the preservation and care of palm trees.

The Festival hosted outstanding events, notably competitions, date auctions, lectures that aimed at raising awareness on the importance of the palm tree, special workshops for children, poetry evenings, popular games and others.

Traditional Market was one of the key highlights of the Liwa Date Festival as it shed light on Emirati heritage and reinforced the cultural legacy the Emirati



ancestors bequeathed to their sons and daughters.

The festival aimed to achieve a series of goals, such as preserving the UAE's cultural heritage, encouraging the preservation of palm trees, promoting economic development in Liwa, guiding farmers about the methods of modern agriculture and how to care for date trees, encouraging farmers to produce quality dates without chemical fertilisers, and organising the annual festival to enable farmers to interact and exchange expertise.

Staff Major General Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Chairman of the Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee –

Abu Dhabi, said that the festival was organised to showcase the heritage of Sheikh Zayed and is an important national event.

It is inspired by the vision of the founder of the country's agricultural advancement, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who established the historic stature of the palm tree and helped in its preservation, while safeguarding an ancient folk heritage and passing it down to future generations.

The Liwa Date Festival has gained considerable attention and recognition on account of its increasing role in tourism and economy, and its role in linking the local date and palm tree handicrafts to tourism

and economy.

Visitors at the event had the chance to discover all products made of date palm, in addition to date sweets, and Jumar (the milky-white inner part of the tree heart).

They could also have a close look at every aspect that is related to the daily life of the Bedouin family and the different crafts, such as Al Sadu (a traditional form of weaving).

The Liwa Date Festival dedicated a diverse programme and dozens of exceptional activities to children of all ages. The activities for this year included theatre performances, cultural activities, stories of Al Rawi (storyteller), and wide-ranging art workshops.



## **Ammar Al Nuaimi launches 5th Liwa Ajman Dates Festival**

**H**.H. Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman and President of the Ajman Executive Council, praised the initiative to organise the Liwa Ajman Dates Festival, as well as creating awareness of the importance of the palm tree, which is a key pillar of Emirati heritage.

He added that the ongoing support of the wise leadership, led by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has showcased Emirati heritage and promoted it among new generations while praising the efforts to ensure the festival's success in Abu Dhabi, Ajman and the other emirates.

He made this statement on

25th June while launching the 5th Liwa Ajman Dates Festival 2018, which was organised by the Department of Tourism Development, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman. Over 40 entities have participated in the festival.

Sheikh Ammar noted that the festival is a platform for those interested in palm tree cultivation to meet and exchange views about investing in agriculture and production, especially as the UAE is known for various types of quality dates. The launch of the festival was attended by Mariam Hareb Almheiri, Minister of State for Food Security; Sheikh Dr. Majid

bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Assistant Under-Secretary of the Division of Food Diversification at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; Abdullah Amin, Advisor to the Ruler's Court; Saleh Mohammed Al Jaziri, Director-General of the Department of Tourism Development in Ajman; as well as many sheikhs, heads and directors of government departments and institutions, and senior officials.

Residents and visitors enjoyed the taste of dates in the culinary corner, took a stroll through the traditional market, and enjoyed authentic Emirati hospitality whilst witnessing the performance of traditional bands, cultural competitions and art workshops.

## Forum

14 creating green communities

Spotlight on UAE's environmental efforts at Urban Sustainability Week



A UAE delegation, led by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, participated in the Singapore Urban Sustainability Week.

**“The UAE spares no effort to educate industries and the public about the concept of sustainable consumption and production to ensure the preservation of its resources for future generations.”**

**A** UAE delegation, led by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has wrapped up a four-day official visit to Singapore that included participation in the Urban Sustainability Week.

During the forum's proceedings, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi held one-on-one meetings with several high-level government officials and private business representatives from around the world. The meetings involved the exchange of expertise and discussions on the latest developments in areas

of common interest, including the sustainability of natural resources, biodiversity, and clean energy. Moreover, the delegates toured several agricultural and environmental facilities and gained first-hand experience of the innovative technologies and practices in place.

“Even though the UAE is only 47 years old, throughout its history, its leaders have always had sustainability at heart. Among the products of our efforts are the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050 and the UAE Energy Strategy 2050,



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

which includes a 50 percent clean energy target by 2050,” he said.

Emphasising the UAE’s pivotal role in bolstering environmental sustainability across the globe, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi added, “The UAE supports developing countries in their environmental sustainability efforts through soft loans and grants.

The country also hosts international platforms, such as the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and the World Government Summit, that advance sustainable and clean-

energy solutions.”

Speaking on water scarcity in the UAE, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi explained, “As water scarcity is a major challenge for the UAE, we are exploring innovations to achieve a sustainable supply of water, including the use of renewable energy in desalination.

Work led by Masdar has shown promising results with 75 percent higher efficiency than conventional methods. We have also adopted an environmentally safe rain enhancement programme that has succeeded in

increasing rainfall in the country.”

He pointed out that the UAE has one of the highest per-capita waste generation rates in the world, and the government works relentlessly to address this issue, adding that the country has set the ambitious target of reducing waste generation by 75 percent.

Moreover, Dr. Al Zeyoudi noted that the UAE is prioritising the planting of mangroves, which are an integral part of the country’s blue carbon ecosystem that has a positive impact on the marine environment and contributes to



CO2 reduction.

Speaking on the UAE's drive to raise awareness of sustainable practices, he said, "The UAE spares no effort to educate industries and the public about the concept of sustainable consumption and production to ensure the preservation of its resources for future generations."

Dr. Al Zeyoudi also delivered a speech at a session on "Transport in Cities," held as part of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2018, organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He said, "Our country has proven that ambitious climate action can go hand in hand with continued

economic growth and prosperity, and a better quality of life for all. Our success factors revolve around a clear strategic vision at the highest level, reinforced by effective urban planning and regulatory reforms, innovation and research and development, mobilisation of finance through public-private partnerships, and engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

"Green transportation is one of the key components of the UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030 that serves as the basis for the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, and is a prime example of increasing resource efficiency, enhancing convenience, creating jobs and driving growth at the same time.

Transportation also featured prominently in the UAE's first Nationally Determined Contribution, submitted in 2015, that identifies several concrete steps to reduce the country's carbon footprint. These include a fuel subsidy reform, a nationwide rail network, conversion to fleets fuelled by compressed natural gas, and multi-billion-dollar investments in light rail and metro systems."







## DMCC breaks world record for largest jigsaw puzzle to celebrate 'Year of Zayed'

**D**MCC, the world's flagship Free Zone and Government of Dubai Authority on commodities trade and enterprise, has announced that it had successfully claimed a new Guinness World Records title for the world's largest jigsaw puzzle by surface area.

In celebration of the Year of Zayed, the wooden jigsaw of over 12,000 pieces features the official logo of the national initiative and spans an area of over 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> within DMCC's Uptown Dubai district.

"The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was a visionary leader of rare perception. He was confident, charismatic, encouraged the continuous

pursuit of excellence and made bold decisions in the face of uncertainty. He also created a sense of collective purpose and possessed a granite understanding of progress for his people," said Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman, DMCC.

"The remarkable growth story that is the modern UAE is the direct result of his ambitious vision for the country, and resolute determination to bring it to fruition. The Year of Zayed represents an important moment for us all to reflect on this reality, and I commend the entire team behind the initiative for promoting his legacy in such a meaningful way. At DMCC, it is our hope that with this world record achievement, we

have shown our support for the national project and gratitude for the inspiring Founding Father of the UAE," he added.

The jigsaw was unveiled during a ceremony attended by a select group of invitees who gathered to move the final pieces of the jigsaw into place.

In line with DMCC's commitment to sustainability, all the pieces of the jigsaw will be recycled after the completion of the project, a process managed by Dubai Municipality.

The previous record for the world's largest jigsaw puzzle according to the Guinness World Records is measured at 5,428.8 m<sup>2</sup>.

## Lecture

18 creating green community

‘Development vision of Sheikh Zayed created a new history for UAE’



[Minister of State Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh delivered a lecture on 11th July 2018, titled, “The Development Vision of the Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan” at the Emirates Centre for Strategies Studies and Research.](#)

The Emirates Centre for Strategies Studies and Research, ECSSR, organised a lecture on 11th July 2018, titled, “The Development Vision of the Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan,” which was delivered by Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State.

The lecture was attended by Dr. Jamal Sanad Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the ECSSR, and several officials and diplomats in the country, as well as armed forces officers, writers, journalists and intellectuals. During the lecture, Nusseibeh explained the

development vision of Sheikh Zayed and stressed that this vision created a new history for the country, and ensured a decent life for its people, protected its sovereignty, security and stability, and maintained its prominent regional and international position.

He also explained certain features of this vision, which include Sheikh Zayed’s unlimited ambitions for the UAE, and the key developments that radically changed the community and the country’s history. Nusseibeh pointed out that Sheikh Zayed was keen to promote social

justice and develop a national identity, as well as a social and cultural environment, to keep pace with the era’s developments while noting that he was also keen to transform the UAE’s economy from an oil economy to a post-oil economy.

He added that the third feature of Sheikh Zayed’s vision is the advanced development of the country’s planning process, which he achieved by forming relevant government institutions, such as the Higher Planning Council, to implement this approach. He also developed new media outlets to



SHEIKH ZAYED was keen to promote social justice and develop a national identity, as well as a social and cultural environment, to keep pace with the era's developments.

promote the country's image and its achievements, and he was keen to launch industries that require minimal labour force, he added.

The fourth feature of Sheikh Zayed's vision is sustainable development and the environment while the fifth feature is his humanity, as the country's development vision is characterised by his values and ethics.

The sixth and last feature is the importance of human resources, as Sheikh Zayed believed that investing in human resources, through education, was an

absolute priority. At the end of the lecture, Nusseibeh praised the role of the ECSSR in supporting the decision-making process and enriching the country's intellectualism, as well as raising awareness about various issues of national concern.

**“Giving Legacy” initiative launched in Abu Dhabi in tribute to Founding Father**

A new community-driven initiative to promote the Founding Father's values of giving and charity was launched on 1st July by the Abu Dhabi Police, in partnership with the Emirates Red Crescent, ERC.

Major-General Hamad Al Hammadi, Director of the Community Security Sector, Abu Dhabi Police, said the initiative, “The Giving Legacy,” was launched to mark the Year of Zayed, as it seeks to instill the values of Sheikh Zayed in humanitarian and charitable works, as well as in sustainability and the development of human beings. “Sheikh Zayed will remain an icon of giving, generosity and humanitarian and charitable work. His good deeds have eased the suffering of many people in sisterly and friendly countries,” he stated.

Campaign

20 creating greener communities

UAE organizes voluntary campaign in Uganda



Suqia, MBRCH organise five-day voluntary campaign in Uganda by providing safe drinking water and contributing to creating an environment conducive to learning and education to empower youth in society.

The UAE Water Aid Foundation, Suqia, and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment, MBRCH, have organised a voluntary campaign in Uganda.

The campaign, in cooperation with the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, has carried out sustainable development and employment projects in the village of Kabiji in Uganda.

This latest endeavour is part of Suqia's commitment towards society and its integrated

humanitarian and social programmes during the Year of Zayed 2018, which includes six humanitarian and social projects to consolidate the values of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The five-day campaign provided safe drinking water and contributed to creating an environment conducive to learning and education in Uganda, to empower youth in society.

It included digging an artesian well, installing water distribution networks, and providing water

purification filters to the village's homes, mosques and schools, benefiting over 5,000 people. It also renovated two schools, one of which bears the name of Sheikh Zayed. This benefits approximately 850 students.

In recognition of the projects that were implemented and which bear the name of the late Sheikh Zayed, and with the cooperation of the UAE Embassy in Uganda, the main road leading to the village of Kabiji was named after the founding father.

Also during the campaign,



THE CAMPAIGN, held in cooperation with DEWA, has carried out sustainable development and employment projects in the village of Kabiji in Uganda.

the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment distributed gifts to 1,500 children, food to over 500 families, and wheelchairs for 40 elderly and individuals in need.

“Our community and voluntary initiatives during the Year of Zayed reflect the noble values and principles instilled by the late Sheikh Zayed in the hearts of the people of the UAE. These include human development, wisdom, philanthropy, and generosity. The visit to Uganda is part of Suqia’s humanitarian and

social programme in the Year of Zayed, which includes the ‘100 volunteers’ initiative to promote a culture of volunteering in society, the ‘100 water projects’ initiative, and global initiatives to provide safe drinking water to needy communities and implement sustainable development projects that serve their needs,” said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Suqia.

“The UAE will keep following the way paved by the everlasting humanitarian school of the late Sheikh Zayed, as an established strategy for the UAE in giving

and supporting whoever needs help. The UAE will always be a role model for charity and humanitarian work.

As a part of our initiatives in the Year of Zayed, under the umbrella of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives and through coordination with the UAE Water Aid Foundation, the establishment sent a joint team from the two organisations to Uganda to implement humanitarian work in the village of Kabigi,” noted Ibrahim Bumelha, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the MBRCH.

## Congress

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

### 'A Vision for Future Cities'



7th annual EmiratesGBC Congress to mark a regional first with in-depth discussion on scaling up the Net Zero Energy Building movement to create net zero cities.

Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC), an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting green building practices, will mark a regional first, with an in-depth discussion on scaling up the Net Zero Energy Building movement to create net zero cities at its seventh annual Congress to be held under the theme 'Targeting Zero: A Vision for Future Cities', on October 9th, 2018 at the Pullman Dubai Creek City Centre hotel.

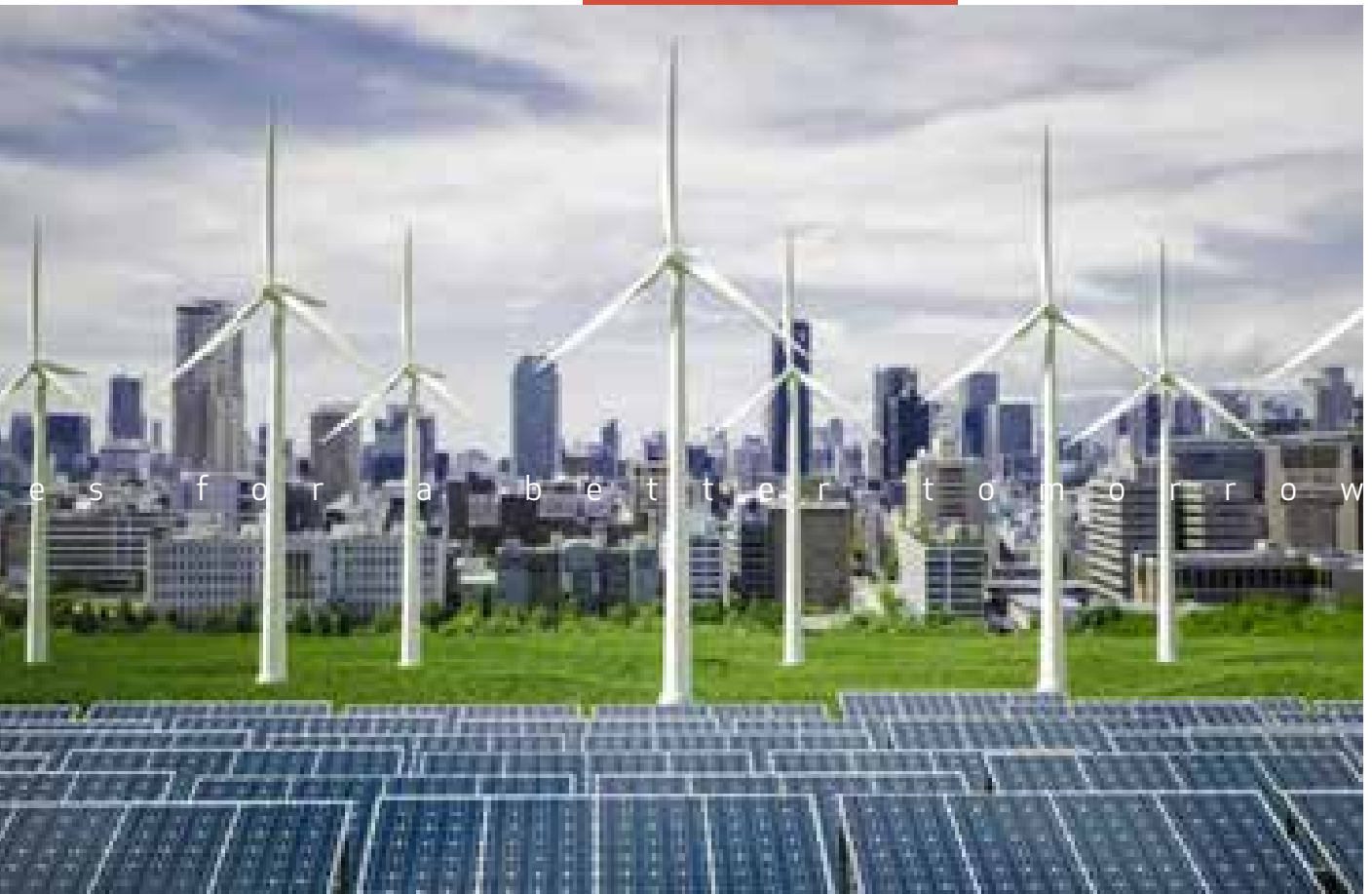
The event is being held for

the second consecutive year under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, mandated to promote advancements toward a green economy in the UAE.

The Annual EmiratesGBC Congress brings together international experts in diverse aspects of energy management and sustainable development to discuss strategies for promoting sustainable built environments for the cities of the future in line with UAE Vision 2021 and the objectives of the Paris COP21 Climate Agreement.

The event aims to influence sustainable practices in the UAE's built environment and to help identify key industry challenges and solutions as well as catalyse innovation in green building practices to create new models that support the country's efforts to be more sustainable.

This year's Congress will, for the first time, discuss best practices and the road map to go beyond net zero carbon buildings to achieve global emission targets, and to drive discussion on net zero cities that help ensure the viability and liveability of the cities in the



THE 2018 Congress aims to influence sustainable practices in the UAE's built environment and to help identify key industry challenges and solutions.

future. Net zero carbon buildings are defined by the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) as those that are highly energy efficient and fully powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources.

They can effectively support achieving the Paris Agreement levels of global emission reductions.

The 2018 Congress' discussions will focus on three sub-themes that are closely related to honouring and promoting the values associated with the late

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the nation, as the UAE marks the Year of Zayed this year to commemorate his 100th birth anniversary.

The first sub-theme: Inspired Cities reflects the wisdom of Sheikh Zayed that supported the UAE's social and economic transformation into a forward-looking, visionary nation.

The second theme: Collaborative Cities focuses on the value of Respect that was advocated by the late leader to establish a

collaborative, vibrant and diverse nation for all.

Finally, the third sub-theme: Holistic Cities mirrors the value of Sustainability which was an integral component of Sheikh Zayed's vision to shape the UAE into a sustainably developing country that respects the environment and positively caters to the needs of future generations.

Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman, Emirates Green Building Council, said: "It is forecasted that by 2050, almost 70 per cent of the





HongKong's Zero Carbon Building in Kowloon Bay generates renewable energy & achieves net zero carbon emissions

world's population will live in cities. Within this same timescale and in order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement there is a need to decarbonise the global economy by 2050, which necessitates a pathway of developing zero carbon cities. This challenge and unique opportunity forms the heart of the conversation that we aim to steer at the Annual EmiratesGBC Congress.

"We are honoured to host the Congress under the patronage of Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for the second consecutive year and we are looking forward to welcoming a line-up of experts who will present our audiences with compelling insights on how Net Zero Energy Buildings hold

the answer for the growth and survival our cities in the future."

**ERC signs water rehabilitation contract**

The Emirates Red Crescent has signed two contracts to rehabilitate a water tank in Mukalla and linking it to supply the Sheikh Khalifa Residential City with potable water.

This latest ERC endeavour is in line with the Year of Zayed, and the aid authority's objectives to assist Yemenis in redeveloping necessary infrastructure and utility systems.

Following the signing ceremony, Mohammed Obaid Al Shamsi, head of the ERC team in Hadramaut, said that this

initiative aims to further step up efforts to ease the burden on Yemen's citizens. The ERC strives to continue providing development assistance and the rebuilding of essential water and sanitation services, he added.

For his part, Wahib Ghanem, Director-General of the Local Corporation for Water Supply and Sanitation praised the great support provided by the ERC to various service sectors in the governorate, including the development sector.

He said that the project is of great importance due to the size of the beneficiary group in the absence of water access to many internal areas of the governorate.





## Dubai Cares to host 10 editions of Volunteer Emirates

**D**ubai Cares, a part of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, has announced that it will be hosting 10 editions of its popular local volunteering initiative, Volunteer Emirates, in collaboration with Senses Residential and Day Care for Special Needs in Dubai.

The first edition took place with the participation of 20 volunteers, on 30th June, at the Centre that looks after children and young adults with severe physical and learning difficulties.

The volunteers engaged with the students through story-telling, sports activities, games and assisting the teachers in the classroom.

The initiative also covered the provision of essential equipment and medical support.

Speaking about this latest edition of Volunteer Emirates, Abdulla Ahmed Al Shehhi, Chief Operating Officer of Dubai Cares, said, "In line with the Year of Zayed 2018 and with our mission of providing inclusive education, this edition of Volunteer Emirates aims to help children of determination in the UAE overcome the barriers that prevent them from accessing equal learning opportunities.

"We are sincerely grateful to the volunteers who have joined us and will be joining us in the upcoming nine editions. Their presence and interaction

with children at the Senses Residential and Day Care for Special Needs Centre will have a big impact on them emotionally and academically."

Khawla Al Sayegh, Vice Executive Manager at Senses Residential and Day Care Centre, thanked Dubai Cares for their continued support of children of determination.

Livigno Gioffredi, one of the participating volunteers, said, "I am glad to be part of a fun and uplifting volunteering experience. The joy on the children's faces at the end of the day said it all, and I realised what a great difference each of us can make in a child's life, even through a small act"

Workshop

26 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 to launch national action plan for climate change adaptation



Climate change adaptation preparation for and building resilience to the potential local impacts of global climate change is one of the three pillars of the plan.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCAEC, hosted a final workshop on climate change adaptation at its headquarters in Dubai.

A number of environmental stakeholders representing federal and local authorities, academia and other relevant entities attended the two-day event that concluded on 17 July, 2018. The workshop was part of the implementation of the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, approved by the Cabinet in June 2017. Climate

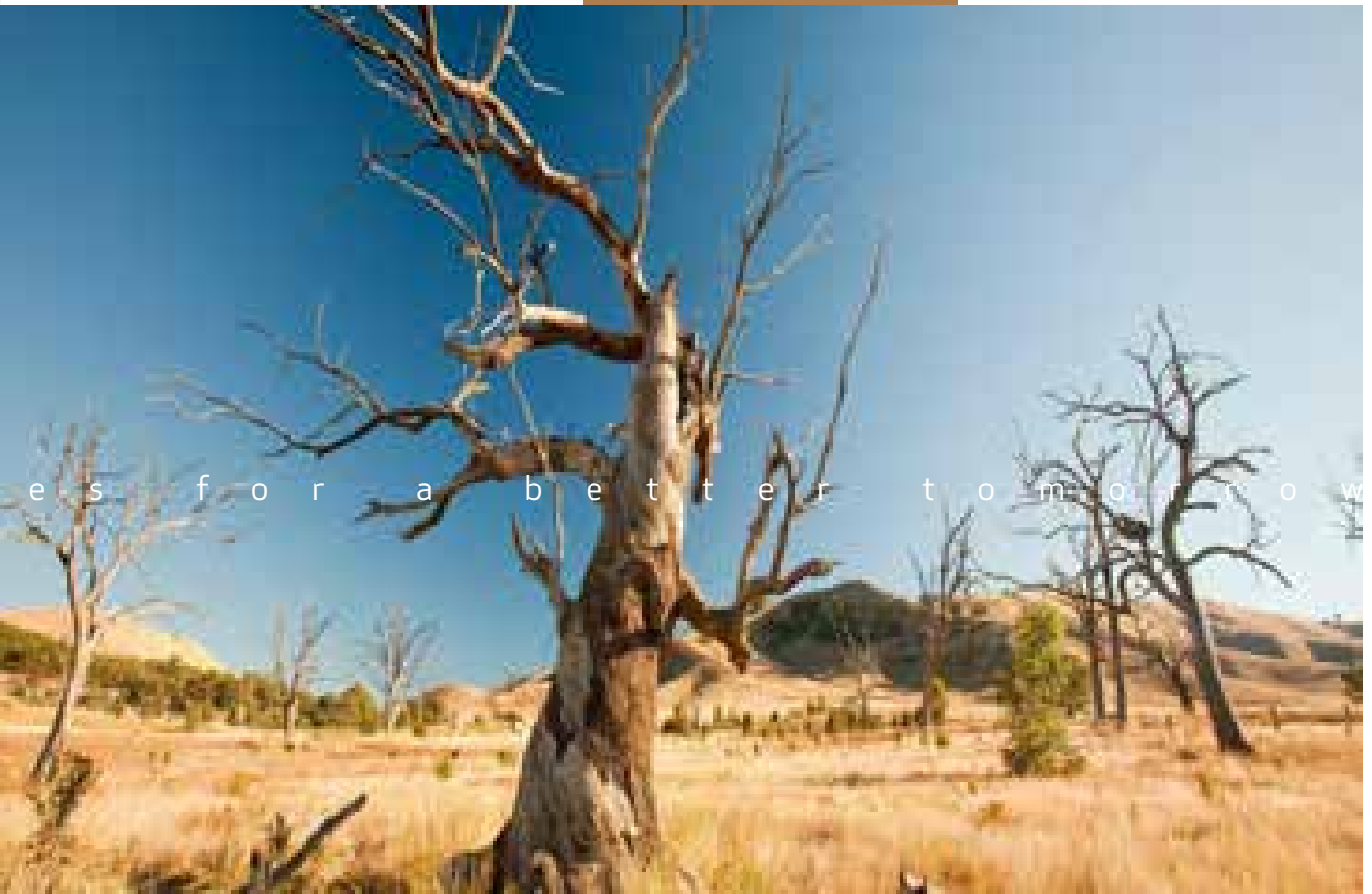
change adaptation preparation for and building resilience to the potential local impacts of global climate change is one of the three pillars of the plan.

In his opening remarks, Fahed Mohamed Al Hammadi, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for Green Development and Climate Change at the ministry, said, "Providing vital ecosystem services, our natural environment is the foundation of the UAE's sustainable development. Climate change affects all species, including multiple aspects of human life. We cannot ignore

the necessity and urgency of adapting to climate change, as it may hamper the country's development if we fail to prepare now.

"Achieving a climate-resilient and sustainable environment requires concerted efforts from the public sector, private sector and civil society. Therefore, the ministry works relentlessly to engage diverse stakeholders in developing and implementing climate adaptation actions."

Dr. John Pinnegar, Director of the Marine Climate Change



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

THE WORKSHOP was part of the implementation of the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, approved by the Cabinet in June 2017.

Centre at the UK-based Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Cefas, provided an expert overview of climate change impacts on the environment and facilitated discussions. Meanwhile, Dr. David Thomson, Associate Professor of Biology at the United Arab Emirates University's College of Science, discussed climate change impacts on the country's marine resources and fisheries.

The ministry is currently working with the Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI, on the assessment of climate risks to the

four key sectors most important to the country's sustainable, climate-resilient future: health, energy, infrastructure, and the environment. The ministry organised a workshop for each sector to gain insights into the stakeholders' understanding and readiness for climate change adaptation. The environmental stakeholder workshop was the final instalment of the series. Based on the input from the sessions and the results of the sector-specific climate change risk assessments, the ministry will devise the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation,

scheduled to launch in Q4 2018.

For the environmental sector, the ministry compiled available evidence on potential climate change impacts on the country's terrestrial, marine, coastal, and aquatic environment, as well as existing policies aimed at coping with the consequences.



Biodiversity

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

Fujairah's  
Wadi Wurayah  
designated  
'Biosphere Reserve'  
by UNESCO



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, has added the Wadi Wurayah Reserve in Fujairah to the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves," the second in the UAE.

**W**adi Wurayah in Fujairah has been designated a 'Biosphere Reserve' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The designation is awarded for protected areas that demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature and promote sustainable development. The site is one of 24 natural spots that won the coveted status.

Located in the Emirate of Fujairah, the site consists of a water catchment area in an arid climate

that is part of the Hajar mountain range. It hosts a rich fauna and flora endemic to the Arabian Peninsula and is one of the last Emirati places where traditional farming practices are still maintained.

Wadi Wurayah is home to more than 652 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, as well as more than 208 species of plants, including a species of wild orchid unique to the UAE.

Some of the rarest animals in the world such as the Blanford's fox, Arabian leopards, mountain gazelles and caracals roam freely

at the Wadi Wurayah. The area's luminous waterfalls, amazing rock formations and unusual wildlife make it a haven for geologists.

Furthermore, the area is a hotspot for bird scientists, who can find some of the 94 bird species recorded within the region a number of which the International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified as endangered. Recent studies have shown that the area is home to 22 dragonfly species.

The international recognition of Wadi Wurayah in Fujairah leverages



WADI WURAYAH is the UAE's first mountain reserve and national park and is home to the Blandford's Fox, Arabian Wildcat, Hedgehog, Lynx and other species.

the recently announced National Ecotourism Project, which was launched by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment to showcase the UAE's natural wonders and promote the 43 natural protected areas in the country.

Biosphere Reserves are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

'International recognition will boost national ecotourism': Al-Zeyoudi

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said that UNESCO's inclusion of Wadi Wurayah into its World Network of Biosphere Reserves is a prestigious accolade awarded to the UAE's leadership, who has placed environmental protection on par with human and economic development, positioning the country on the global map as a leader in sustaining and preserving the environment.

"Our commitment towards nature has commenced with the Founding Father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who

gave time, effort and resources to care for this country's magnificent environment.

He drew the path we continue to take till this day towards preserving the natural beauty of the UAE," Dr. Al-Zeyoudi added.

He noted that the designation of Wadi Wurayah as a biosphere reserve is a recognition of its unique natural characteristics as a natural wonder of the UAE. Wadi Wurayah is the second protected area in the UAE to receive this recognition after Marawah Marine Protected Area.

## Ecotourism

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

### MoCCAЕ announces National Ecotourism Project



The UAE has launched the National Ecotourism Project which aims to position the country as a leading green holiday destination.

While protected areas, distributed over 130 countries according to the United Nations, constitute only five per cent of the total surface of the earth, in the UAE, they make up 14 per cent of the territory.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCAЕ, has announced the launch of the 'National Ecotourism Project' to position the UAE as a leading global ecotourism hub.

"Over the past few years, the pioneering vision and directives of the UAE leadership have enabled the country to consolidate its leading global status across diverse sectors, with travel and tourism at the forefront," said Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, in Dubai on 5th July 2018.

He noted that the UAE recorded nearly 15.87 million incoming tourists in 2017, an astonishing 6.5 per cent increase over 2016, with revenues amounting to AED118.8 billion, as per specialised reports. These reports project tourist traffic to continue growing in the coming years to a record-breaking 25 million between 2020 and 2021, coinciding with Expo 2020 Dubai.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi explained that global travel and tourism trends in the last decade have indicated the emergence of ecotourism, a concept widely embraced by



THE UN World Tourism Organisation defines ecotourism as a form of sustainable tourism that actively contributes to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

tourists who seek to leave no ecological footprint behind while travelling.

The UN World Tourism Organisation defines ecotourism as a form of sustainable tourism that actively contributes to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. By this definition, ecotourism and all nature-related forms of tourism account for approximately 20 per cent of total international travel.

“The national ecotourism project is a result of the country’s commitment to preserving the

environment, a commitment instilled in its people by the UAE’s Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan,” he added.

The project will promote the country’s eco-tourism attractions in three phases that focus on environmental, economic and social factors. MoCCAЕ is currently working on the pilot phase that includes making ample information and promotional footage available under the theme ‘The UAE’s Natural Wonders’, to showcase the rich biodiversity across the country’s 43 protected areas.

He noted, “The ministry is about to launch a dedicated website and app for tablets and smartphones to raise awareness of the protected areas among residents and visitors and encourage travel agencies to include these sites in their promotional packages for the UAE. The portal and app will serve as an information and visual resource that UAE embassies across the globe and national airlines can use to introduce these attractions to the world.”

The minister said that for the project to become full-fledged, the UAE seeks to leverage



the fast-paced development witnessed in all sectors, particularly in the sustainable tourism domain that includes eco-friendly flights, hotels, beaches and campsites. In the next phase, the ministry plans to update the website and app with geographic locations and detailed information on these facilities and services to assist travel agencies in organising eco-friendly tours.

He added that the success of this phase depends on the cooperation between government and private entities that will provide relevant information to the ministry to share with the public.

The UAE possesses all the

key ingredients to become an ecotourism destination of choice. While protected areas, distributed over 130 countries according to the United Nations, constitute only five per cent of the total surface of the earth, in the UAE, they make up 14 per cent of the territory.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi listed some of the benefits the UAE stands to gain from focusing on ecotourism, including protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, safeguarding biodiversity habitats, implementing sustainable practices across multiple sectors and ensuring healthier ecosystems.

He concluded by saying

that ecotourism drives the wheel of the green economy through establishing green transportation infrastructure as well as eco-friendly hotels and other leisure amenities. As it promotes sustainable local agriculture, ecotourism also combats desertification and contributes to the growth of the GDP.







## **WETEX and Dubai Solar Show to highlight latest technologies in energy**

**D**ubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is organising the 20th Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, and President of DEWA.

WETEX will be held from 23rd-25th October 2018 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The 20th WETEX and the 3rd Dubai Solar Show will provide an

opportunity to review the latest innovative solutions in energy, water, and the environment. Many of these technologies will be unveiled for the first time, especially in renewable energy, water, sustainability and rationalisation.

The two exhibitions will act as an integrated platform for companies and organisations working in these key sectors to promote their products, services and innovative technologies, and meet decision-makers, investors, buyers and interested parties from around the world to make deals, build partnerships, review the latest technologies in these sectors, learn about current and future projects and market needs, and explore opportunities

to take part in solar-energy projects and programmes in the region.

“WETEX has become an annual event to launch new technologies, and a destination for decision-makers, investors, and trade visitors from around the world. Over 19 years, WETEX has witnessed the launch of new innovative technologies, many of which made their regional debut through its platform.

This year, WETEX will continue to present the latest technologies in various energy sectors, while the Dubai Solar Show will cater to increasing demand for solar power,” said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, Founder and Chairman of WETEX.

Conservation

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

Dubai Municipality  
to nest birds at Al  
Marmoum Reserve



Dubai Municipality to issue guidance to visitors on keeping birds out of harm's way even as it maps out nesting areas.

Dubai Municipality is currently studying birds that breed in the Al Marmoum Desert Conservation Reserve to identify breeding species and the important breeding areas in the reserve to nest and protect them during the breeding season.

“We also want to provide necessary guidance to the visitors and create awareness among them about the site, which is a protected nature reserve that provides a fertile and safe environment for wildlife,” said Eng. Alia Al Harmoudi, Director of

Environment Department in Dubai Municipality.

Al Harmoudi said the reserve provides natural refuge, safe for multiple species, especially during the breeding season, which is an important stage in the proliferation and survival of the species and prosperity to ensure continuity and conservation from extinction, especially birds that breed and build their nests on the ground because they face many risks either natural or anthropogenic.

Among the most important

species that are currently being protected is Houbara Bustard, said Aisha Al Murr Al Muhery, Head of Natural Resources Protection Section. She added that the species of birds that breed in the reserve that are increasing annually include wading water birds, passerines, terrestrial birds and water birds, which reflect the success of the plans and site development to suit both the conservation programs and sustainable tourism to enjoy the nature without compromising the natural balance; and develop awareness programs by involving the public in the conservation and



AMONG THE most important species that are currently being protected at Al Marmoum Reserve is Houbara Bustard.

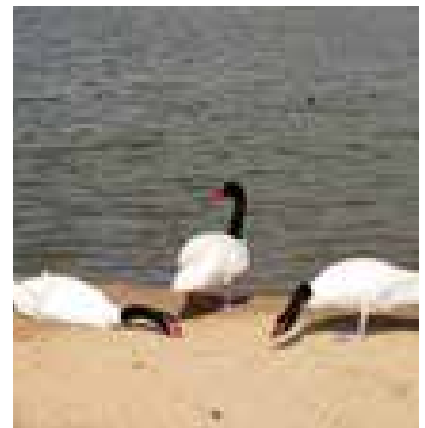
cleaning processes and introduce them to the importance of biological diversity.

“Despite the high ability of birds to camouflage with the local environment and hide their nests in places that are difficult to find or to lay eggs with the same color of the surrounding environment and soil, natural predators also have the skill to detect nest sites in addition to easily access to the nests, compared to the birds that build their nests on trees. Due to this, several species, such as lapwings, ducks, geese, and stilts lay their eggs on the islands

inside the lakes in order to avoid the threats and reduce the risk of predation by predators such as foxes, cats, dogs and mice, but predating birds can overcome the trick,” she explained.

Al Muhery said that as the percentage of the visitors, who come to Al Marmoum Reserve to enjoy the beauty of the natural views of the lakes, sand dunes, and colorful birds increased, the percentage of disturbance and threats have also increased due to many misbehaviors by desert visitors, such as off-road driving, which causes the greatest threat

to birds nesting on ground as cars trample their eggs and young, besides, high speed and lack of caution also threaten the birds.



## UAE, China ink two agreements on strengthening agricultural cooperation



As per the agreements, the UAE and China are mandated to strengthen cooperation in modern agriculture, such as hydroponics and organic agriculture, apply modern agricultural techniques, especially in irrigation and in using treated water for agriculture.

The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, and the People's Republic of China, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, MARA, have ratified two Memorandums of Understanding, MoUs, to strengthen agricultural cooperation and jointly build a wholesale market for agricultural, livestock and fishery products.

The MoUs were signed by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment and Ni Jian, Ambassador of China to the UAE.

As per the agreements, the UAE and China are mandated to strengthen cooperation in modern agriculture, such as hydroponics and organic agriculture, apply modern agricultural techniques, especially in irrigation and in using treated water for agriculture.

They will also collaborate in the exchange of expertise, science and technology in the fields of pest control, agriculture in saline areas and food security and diversity.

The two countries agreed to jointly build a wholesale market

for agricultural, livestock and fishery products in the UAE to ensure food safety, reduce spoilage, increase revenue, and stabilise food prices in the region. They also concurred that the operation of the wholesale market should reflect market dynamics with the businesses as the principal stakeholders and the governments playing a guiding role.

Furthermore, to solidify this venture, the UAE and China will facilitate the mobilisation of private capital and implement a modern enterprise management system. Chinese businesses



The UAE and China seek to strengthen agricultural cooperation and jointly build a wholesale market for agricultural, livestock and fishery products.

will establish the wholesale market as per the standards and specifications permitted in the UAE and will be tasked with its management and operations.

Speaking on the agreements, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi said, "The UAE enjoys cordial and long-standing synergies with China. The two countries seek to bolster these relations through sharing experiences and employing the latest technologies in the fields of environment, agriculture, livestock and food diversity.

"The UAE is the first Gulf Arab

nation to establish a strategic partnership with China and has been China's second largest trade partner and biggest export market in West Asia and North Africa for several years in a row.

"Such collaborations are projected to introduce innovative solutions to food security challenges, and significantly contribute to enhancing China-UAE bilateral agricultural cooperation through the development of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors in the UAE."

China's Ministry of Agriculture

and Rural Affairs will encourage Chinese businesses to invest in developing the wholesale market and invite businesses from the UAE and other major countries engaged in the Belt and Road initiative to participate.

Meanwhile, MOCCA will facilitate Chinese businesses within its purview, and support them in all communications required with concerned stakeholders.

Both agreements come into effect immediately and remain valid for a period of five years.



## MoCCAЕ enters into 'vertical farms' agreement

**T**he Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCAЕ, and Shalimar Biotech Industries, have signed an agreement to establish vertical farms on the ministry's land in Dubai.

Sultan Alwan, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Regions Sector at MoCCAЕ, and CP Ramachandran, Founder and CEO of Shalimar Biotech Industries, signed the agreement at MoCCAЕ headquarters. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, attended the signing.

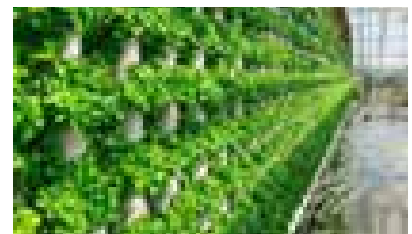
Under the terms of the collaboration, MoCCAЕ will allocate 7,600 square metres of its land, provide Shalimar

Biotech Industries with logistical support, and provide the services needed for the project. The company will establish 12 vertical farms on the land and develop infrastructure facilities, such as a water desalination plant, climate-control air conditioning, LED lighting, and automatic irrigation systems.

Speaking about the partnership, Alwan said, "The agreement leverages synergies between MoCCAЕ and the private sector to encourage innovation in agriculture, with the aim of enhancing the UAE's food security and diversity. As vertical farming has a significantly smaller carbon footprint than traditional farming, ventures such as this one align with the

country's drive to improve its agricultural self-sufficiency."

The five-year cooperation agreement seeks to promote new agricultural technologies; provide an educational centre for local farmers, students and researchers; reduce agricultural waste, the risk of infection and the spread of agricultural pests; achieve year-round crop production, and mitigate thermal emissions from agricultural processes.





## One tonne of e-waste diverted from Dubai landfills

Following 2017's highly successful World Environment Day initiative, Dubai Internet City and Dubai Science Park teamed up to bring back the e-waste collection drive to their communities in collaboration with Uber and Averda.

This year, the campaign was extended to Dubai Media City to promote the recycling of audio and video products, such as radios, televisions and music players.

From 20th to 21st June between 10am and 4pm, 40 Uber rides collected a total of 161 items, equivalent to almost one tonne of e-waste. In support of the drive, the three business parks

organised a digital contest that invited participants to share an image of their retired electronics and a caption of what recycling means to them for a chance to win prizes.

Business partners and community members booked a ride via the Uber app using the request 'UberRECYCLE'. Uber drivers then collected the e-waste from the specified TECOM business parks and delivered the items to Averda, which was responsible for the recycling and waste management.

Ammar Al Malik, Executive Director of Dubai Internet City, said, "As a leading business community specialised in

technology, it is our duty to raise awareness on the significance of recycling and its positive impact on our society. We are proud of our successful campaign that has helped offset our environmental footprint, and aim to continue implementing such collaborative environment-friendly initiatives to facilitate the UAE's digital transformation."

Responsible e-waste disposal is a pressing issue across the world. According to The Global E-waste Monitor 2017, experts foresee the global volume of e-waste rising to 52.2 million metric tonnes in 2021 – up from 44.7 million metric tonnes in 2016. This means electronic waste is the fastest-growing component of the world's domestic waste stream.



Award

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

## ECAT honors winners of Academic Sustainability Ambassadors Award



The competition saw the participation of 950 students from 30 schools, out of which 240 students were conferred the title of Sustainability Ambassadors title.

Dubai Municipality's Environment Center for Arab Cities (ECAT) has honoured the winners of the first phase of its Sustainability Ambassadors Award, entitled "Making the Change for a Sustainable Environmental Future." Hussain Al Fardan, Director of ECAT and a number of strategic partners in the environment and education sector and parents of the participants in the competition were present on the occasion.

The competition was comprised of five environmental topics,

including waste, energy, biodiversity, air quality. The competition was launched through a dedicated website that allows students time to register, prepare and submit their research, which was followed by selecting the candidate students and inviting them to give a presentation on the research in the presence of the jury and evaluation before making the final decision on the winners.

"We launched this competition to raise the level of environmental awareness among school students and to enhance their ability to deliver innovative ideas centered on

sustainable development that will create a generation that recognizes the importance of a future that preserves the environment and Earth's natural resources sustainably," said Al Fardan.

He also praised the success of the initiative and the active participation of the students and partners in its first edition, and the research works presented by the participants, which will contribute towards providing environmental solutions that meet the needs of the community to build Arab cities with a safe and healthy environment based





THE COMPETITION comprised of five environmental topics, including waste, energy, biodiversity, air quality.

on the concept of sustainable development and well-being.

Al Fardan added that ECAT intends to expand the second phase of the Sustainability Ambassadors Award and to open its doors to participation of school students from other Arab countries, which is in line with the vision of ECAT in raising environmental awareness throughout the Arab countries.

It is also worth mentioning that the competition was participated by 950 students from 30 schools, out of which 240 students

were conferred the title of Sustainability Ambassadors title. In addition to the competition, ECAT has other environmental awareness programs such as the Eco Schools Program.

The Eco Schools Program aims at promoting the school to be an ideal environmental school through the implementation of the program's criteria, which include reducing the school's consumption of energy, water and natural resources, and raising awareness among the school's students, the faculty, parents and the community. Since its

inception, the program has attracted nearly 100 public and private schools and about 40 of them were awarded with the Green Flag Award, a laurel for which the school has to work hard to obtain by meeting the criteria of the program.

The Sustainability Ambassador Award website provides students with the opportunity to join, participate and become a Sustainability Ambassador by attending interactive workshops covering various environmental aspects relevant to the contest topics.

## Zero Gravity pledges to ban all single use plastic



[Zero Gravity, an award winning beach club in Dubai, has launched a campaign to boycott single use plastic at the venue.](#)

Dubai's award-winning day to night beach club, Zero Gravity proudly confirms the launch of its environmentally friendly campaign to boycott single use plastic at the venue. The objective is to ban all plastic straws and all plastic utensils including single use plastic cutlery, cups, plates and stirrers from the venue and replace them with biodegradable alternatives. By the end of the year, Zero Gravity will implement further changes to ensure that this pledge implemented across all replaceable elements of the beach club both front of house

and back of house.

Peter Skudutis, General Manager, Zero Gravity said, "We are taking a strong stand on this environmental issue, by implementing a strict ban on single use plastic. We've all seen horrifying videos of oceans filled with plastic which, without a doubt, harms marine life, birds, animals and eventually impacts the food chain as well as our health."

He added; "The hospitality industry uses a huge amount of single use plastic every day and

it needs to stop. We need to find alternatives, where possible, and make changes now. We encourage other venues, companies, and individuals to join us and say no to single use plastic."

Currently, Zero Gravity is exploring various biodegradable options to see what can be replaced making sure that the guests experience will not be affected by any of these changes.

Zero Gravity is set to reduce its annual single use plastic consumption from a total of 729,600 straws, 43,200 plastic



THE BAN on single use plastic campaign at Zero Gravity will take place across three phases.

cutleries and 40,800 plates to ZERO, declaring the venue a single use plastic free zone.

The ban on single use plastic campaign will take place across three phases:

Phase 1: A commitment from Zero Gravity to strictly ban single use plastic including: straws, plastic cutlery, cups, plates and stirrers at the venue by end of 2018.

Phase 2: Continued research with suppliers to find the most suitable alternative products for both front of house and back of

house, as well educating staff and guests on impact of plastic on the environment.

Phase 3: Engaging the hospitality industry, sharing knowledge on best practice and how to best implement these changes at venues across the UAE.

In addition, to removing single use plastic, Zero Gravity is also launching a monthly We Love Our Beach cleanup in order to help raise further awareness of the importance of looking after the environment. The cleanup will take place every first Sunday of each

month, starting on Sunday 5th August where the venue's senior management team and staff will help clean up the beach at JBR and be part of this ecological initiative.



## Pioneering Greenhouse Gas Inventory leads to reduced emissions at The Sustainable City in 2017



Key findings include: The GHG intensity of the villas at The Sustainable City is almost 50% less than that of a conventional villa in UAE. Per capita water consumption is 31% less and per capita grid electricity consumption is 42% less than Dubai average.

**T**he Sustainable City, the Middle East's first fully-operational sustainable community, has become the first gated community in the region to release its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory. The initiative is part of The Sustainable City's strategic collaboration with Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (EWS-WWF).

The Sustainable City's total emissions for the year 2017 are 8,761 tCO<sub>2</sub>e with electricity accounting for 50%, waste for 38%, and water for 11%\*. The GHG inventory covers

the emissions from the fully operational Phase 1, as well as electricity and fuel related emissions from the under-construction Phase 2 of The Sustainable City.

During the year 2017, 363 villas and 200 apartments were occupied, and the city had a resident population of approximately 1900. The inventory results show that the GHG intensity of the villas at The Sustainable City is almost 50% less than that of a conventional villa in UAE. The Sustainable City was successful in achieving

a lower footprint through efficient design, rooftop solar, solar-charged electric buggies, organic waste composting and other low carbon initiatives. The per capita grid electricity and water consumption is 42% and 30% less than the Dubai average respectively.

The report was prepared in accordance with The Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories. The emissions results were verified by Dubai Carbon, a private joint-stock company established to cater to building a



ADVANCING ITS mission of low-carbon urban development, The Sustainable City becomes the first gated community in the region to release a Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

low-carbon and green economy.

Faris Saeed, CEO of Diamond Developers — the company behind The Sustainable City — commented: “The results of our GHG inventory confirm that The Sustainable City is continually working to fight climate change and proactively reducing our carbon emissions in alignment with the Paris agreement and the sustainable development goals.

Moving forward, we will be taking steps to further reduce our emissions through the addition of 3.6 MW of solar PVs, the use

of biodiesel for construction activities, and various awareness campaigns for residents.”

Laila Mostafa Abdullatif, Director General of EWS-WWF, said, “Climate change is a defining issue today, and cities and communities play a key role in addressing this global challenge. The Sustainable City is a prime example of how a mixed-use community can be developed and operated in line with sustainability principles and with consequently reduced emissions, even in the harsh climate of the Gulf. The partnership between

The Sustainable City and EWS-WWF not only includes measuring and reporting the City’s GHG emissions but extends to examining best practices for mitigating carbon emissions from residential and non-residential activities.”

*\*The Sustainable City’s emissions reported here are not comparable to national emissions figures as a range of activities outside the community are not accounted for in the City’s inventory. For instance, emissions from transportation outside the community, and those generated during food production and product manufacturing, are not included.*

**Adoption of B100 Bio-Diesel**  
The Sustainable City has adopted B100 biodiesel to fuel the construction of the new buildings



in phase 2 including Fairgreen International School, Hotel Indigo, and the innovation centre. The renewable fuel alternative is manufactured from the used cooking oil consumed by the restaurants at the community plaza, and will allow The Sustainable City to reduce its carbon footprint by up to 150 tons of carbon dioxide per year during the construction period.

Faris Saeed, CEO of Diamond Developers — the company behind The Sustainable City — commented: “As The Sustainable City continues to grow, we are pleased to be bringing our construction methods in line with our sustainable philosophy. B100 biodiesel minimises nearly all forms of air pollution

and particularly greenhouse gases, so while protecting the environment, it will also allow us to maintain the pure, clean and untainted environment that our residents enjoy at the community. By switching to B100 biodiesel, we are taking a new step in our ongoing strategy to explore and adopt sustainable solutions at The Sustainable City.”

The Sustainable City’s B100 biodiesel is manufactured from used cooking oil and produced at Neutral Fuels’ bio-refinery in Dubai Investment Park. Compared to conventional gasoline and petroleum diesel, B100 cuts harmful emissions such as carbon monoxide by 50%, polyaromatic hydrocarbons by 90%, nitrogen oxides by 95%, and particulate

matter by 99%.

B100 diesel is non-hazardous, which minimises occupational risk, and is also sulphur free and 100% biodegradable, meaning it leaves no toxic residues. It requires no engine modifications and its high lubricity, combined with its excellent cleaning properties, make it the ideal sustainable alternative to conventional diesel.





## AUS research team to convert organic wastes into soil amendments

Researchers from the American University of Sharjah's College of Engineering have embarked on a two-year research project to investigate the conversion of commonly available organic wastes (such as food and agricultural wastes) into biochar. AED 630,000 was allocated for the project.

Biochar is a highly stable form of carbon that does not contribute to the greenhouse effect and that is used worldwide to improve soil properties for plant growth. It can be produced from nearly any organic material. The AUS team will determine how to use many different organic materials to create designer biochars that have high water-

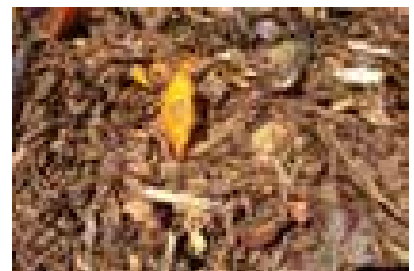
and nutrient-holding capacities.

The AUS Biochar project is the first project that comprehensively investigates the conversion of many different organic waste materials available in the UAE into useful biochar. The project contributes directly to the UAE's 2021 vision of minimizing the amount of waste material going to landfills.

Speaking about the project, the AUS lead investigator, Dr. Yassir Makkawi, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, said: "This research project comes at an exciting time, where AUS is experiencing a huge expansion in research activities, including novel concepts on waste minimization through

thermochemical conversion. We have already started looking at the potential of date palm waste for biofuels, and now we can expand this further to explore other waste streams for biochar production."

The project is funded by Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA), the world's third largest producer of aluminum, who intend to utilize biochar in the manufacture of soil from bauxite residue.





## Abu Dhabi's public transport moves a step closer to Vision 2021 sustainability targets



### Al-Futtaim Toyota delivers a large fleet of Toyota Camry Hybrid Electric Hybrid Vehicles to Tawasul Transport.

In line with its commitment to spearhead the environmental mobility agenda within the UAE Vision 2021's environmental targets, Al-Futtaim Toyota, leader in sustainable mobility since 2008, has announced the handover of 907 Toyota Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV) to Abu Dhabi's Tawasul Transport, a subsidiary of Das Holding Group of Companies, marking Tawasul as Abu Dhabi's largest hybrid fleet operator.

The strategic introduction of the Camry HEVs comes in line with Tawasul's long-term vision

aiming at converting its entire fleet to environmentally-friendly taxis, in order to accelerate the implementation of the UAE Government's sustainability targets and actively contribute to enhancing the country's clean air index.

Camry HEV has been leading the sustainable mobility march since 2008, being the first marque that pioneered the HEV technology in the UAE. The new generation Camry HEV runs for 26km/L, 9 more Km compared to 2.5L petrol-engine Camry, and is able to save 52,000 kg of CO2

when in operation for around 500,000Kms. As a result, the 907 Camry HEVs are expected to collectively save 47,164,000 kg of CO2 over their life cycle within Tawasul's operating fleet.

"The newly launched Camry HEV delivers 70% better fuel efficiency compared to petrol-engine cars. That means for every litre of petrol, the new Camry HEV runs 26km, making it the most durable and effective mobility solutions for taxi operators. The introduction of these 907 new Camry HEVs to the Toyota-exclusive taxis of Tawasul, makes





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

THE NEWLY launched Camry HEV delivers 70% better fuel efficiency compared to petrol-engine cars.

us extremely proud to know that we are playing an active role in enabling a cleaner motoring in the UAE, while helping Tawasul accelerate their efforts in supporting the sustainability targets they set for themselves in line with the UAE Vision 2021” said Saud Abbasi, Managing Director of Al-Futtaim Toyota.

His Excellency Jumaa Saeed Al Kaabi General Manager of Tawasul Transportation Company said: “We at Tawasul are committed to providing distinguished transport services through our adherence to “Quality, Comfort and Safety”.

With the addition of our first batch of electrified taxis, we aim to provide more eco-conscious travel solutions that will support the UAE government’s green initiatives. This came on the heel of an order of 50 previous generation Camry HEV in 2017”.

The handover of the new HEV fleet of Toyota Camry was announced at a press conference attended by Saud Abbasi, Managing Director of Al-Futtaim Motors, His Excellency Jumaa Saeed Al Kaabi General Manager of Tawasul Transportation Company and Mohammed Al

Qamzi, general manager of Integrated Transport Centre in addition to a senior delegation from both companies.

Camry HEV can be driven entirely by either electrical power with zero-fuel consumption and carbon emissions, or with a combination of a petrol engine and two electric motors.

The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cable.

Conservation

50 creating green community

\$5.6m construction work on Abu Dhabi wildlife centre completed



The construction of the Delaija project started in 2010, and is an outstanding breeding and conservation centre, being home for more than 6,000 animals.

The Abu Dhabi General Services Company, Musanada, has completed the AED20.58 million construction and maintenance project of the facilities at the Delaija Wildlife Management Centre, for the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD. The project stretches over a gross area of 520,000 square metres.

Commenting on the announcement, Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, EAD Secretary-General, said, "The Delaija Wildlife Management Centre is a unique facility and the first of its kind in the region

in terms of its design and size. EAD seeks to use this centre to provide facilities for breeding and protecting endangered wild animals by maintaining sustainable groups through breeding and reintroduction programs in their natural habitat."

"Through this centre that hosts approximately 6,300 animals belonging to four different species, EAD breeds and manages specific endangered groups such as the Arabian Oryx, sand gazelle, mountain gazelle and scimitar-horned Oryx by improving genetic diversity to ensure their

sustainability," added Al Mubarak. "Researchers at EAD implement management and breeding plans in a properly scientific and systematic way, in order to form a world herd to be included as part of the local reintroduction programs inside and outside nature reserves as well as the other international programs at the regional level, to help bring animals back to their habitats to live normally after ensuring that all necessary safeguards are in place."

Al Mubarak expressed her hopes that the Delaija Centre would evolve to an outstanding breeding facility comprising a veterinary



THE DELAIJA project enhances the role of the UAE towards protecting, breeding and re-introducing endangered animals.

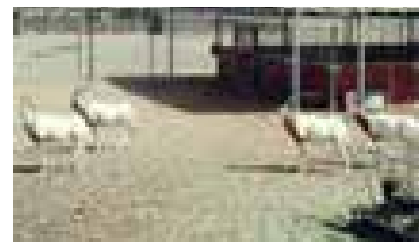
hospital, an educational centre for raising awareness of the importance of endangered wild animals, “as these are closely linked to our culture and history, which is fully worth being maintained for future generations.”

Suwaidan Rashed Al Dhaheri, Musanada’s Acting CEO, said, “Due to the particular nature of the project, Musanada has implemented highest standards in respect of environmental sustainability requirements, with all the materials used in the project being recyclable, thereby achieving the maximum appropriate

environmental requirements.” He further noted that Musanada managed to save more than AED2.5 million without compromising the project components or the required level of work.

The construction of the Delaija project started in 2010, and is an outstanding breeding and conservation centre, being home for more than 6,000 animals. Al Dhaheri noted that the chief challenge was to develop a design appropriate to the circumstances surrounding endangered animals, including a full study of the daily activity lifecycle at the pens and

the immunisation lifecycle of animals against diseases, taking into account the need to create appropriate conditions to ensure maximum safety of animals through the construction methods deployed and the quality of materials used, as well as successfully addressing the several emerging technical challenges.





## Abu Dhabi partners with Chinese firm to implement large-scale agricultural project

**A**bu Dhabi-based Mawarid Holding signed an agreement on 3rd July 2018 with Chongqing Earthskin Eco-technology, a Chinese firm, to convert existing desert land into areas where grass, trees and vegetables can grow.

The deal between the manager of Abu Dhabi's forests and agricultural production, Mawarid Holding, and Chongqing Earthskin Eco-technology will involve the selection and soilisation of one or more desert areas in its first year.

This land will then be used in different agricultural industries.

As part of the agreement, which is being funded by Mawarid,

Chongqing Earthskin may also set up a desert soilization research centre in Abu Dhabi. Officials hope the project can help address the UAE's current reliance on imports for 80-90 per cent of its food.

A desert steppe reclamation project in China's Ulan Buh Desert over the last two years has seen areas able to produce more than 40 types of crops.

According to Abdul Jalil Albluki, Chairman of the Mawarid Holding Company, "The UAE attaches great importance to the agricultural sector despite the country's land and water constraints and thereby pursuing the policy of the UAE's "visionary" leader, the late Sheikh

Zayed, who declared "Give me agriculture and I will give you civilization".

This summarizes the awareness of UAE leadership towards agriculture as a strategic hub for overall development in general and the consolidation of sustainable development principles that seek to protect the environment and balance economic and social development in accordance with the objectives of UAE Vision 2021."

He added: "This agreement will benefit future generations and improve the quality of life depending on new and diverse resources and conserve water resources in UAE."



## MoCCAЕ, Dubai SME sign MoU to support growth of agricultural SMEs

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCAЕ, and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development, Dubai SME, an agency of the Department of Economic Development, DED, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, to cooperate in developing SMEs focused on agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries, and beekeeping in the UAE.

Sultan Alwan, Assistant Under-Secretary of the Regions Sector at the ministry, and Abdul Baset Al Janahi, CEO of Dubai SME, signed the MoU on 25th July 2018 in the presence of key representatives from the two entities.

Under the agreement, the ministry will offer technical support services to commercial agricultural and aquafarming entrepreneurs applying for funding from Dubai SME. Support services on offer include conducting awareness and capacity-building courses, hands-on presentations and workshops, in collaboration with Dubai SME, at model farms currently being established by MoCCAЕ to raise awareness and knowledge of the latest practices in these fields.

Dubai SME will offer counselling and guidance to local entrepreneurs to introduce them to the legal requirements and dynamics of the labour market. Start-up businesses focused on agriculture, livestock

breeding, beekeeping, fishing, or aquafarming operations can also benefit from administrative services and soft loan as well as licence exemption.

A joint committee will be formed to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the MoU. In addition to providing recommendations, the committee will facilitate SMEs focused on agriculture by reviewing their estimated budgets and either approve or reject them.

Alwan reiterated that MoCCAЕ is continually working to provide national agricultural, livestock breeding and fisheries ventures with an advantage to step up their competitiveness in global markets.

Renewable Energy

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

‘Renewable energy is the future direction of all markets’



UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund training programme boosts renewable energy development capacity in Pacific Islands

The third session of the Pacific Renewable Energy Integration training programme, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, successfully concluded on 5th July in Auckland, New Zealand.

The programme focuses on development and financing of solar, wind, and other renewable energy projects and is managed by Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD).

The programme is funded through the US\$50 million UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund (UAE-PPF) which has executed renewable energy projects in 11 Pacific Island countries.

The third session, running from 2 to 5 July 2018, notably featured content from parties involved directly in project implementation in Pacific island countries, including the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, ANZ Banking Group, law firm Chapman Tripp, The University of the South Pacific, Elemental Power and Renewables,

and ITP Renewables.

“Renewable energy is the future direction of all markets,” said Ahmed Al Dhaheri, Deputy Head of Mission at the UAE Embassy in New Zealand. “We are honoured to work with Pacific island countries on both the hardware and capacity-building elements of the transition.

As we have seen in the UAE, public finance for renewable energy generation assets can kick-start growth, but ultimately the skills of utilities, regulators, and other stakeholders need to be in place



THE 11 PROJECTS delivered by Masdar through the UAE-PPF collectively increased the renewable energy generation capacity in the Pacific by 6.5 megawatts.

for the sector to thrive.”

The two-year regional training programme was initiated by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) in 2017.

The first two workshops took place in Fiji and Abu Dhabi, while the fourth and final session will be held on the sidelines of the General Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi in January 2019.

Covering key technical,

legal, commercial, financial, environmental and human resource aspects of renewable energy development, this month’s session drew 22 energy leaders and managers from 11 Pacific Island countries. Around a third of the participants were women.

The workshop incorporated lessons learned from the successful delivery of UAE-PPF projects in the form of case studies and interactive exercises focused on renewable energy integration into island grids.

The course also discussed

projects currently under development in the Pacific.

Adel Al Hosani, Director of the Operations Department at ADFD, said: “Investing in a clean energy industry that employs talented, world-class professionals is central to achieving the Pacific Islands’ ambitious sustainability goals.

As Abu Dhabi’s leading national entity for development aid, ADFD is delighted to finance the Renewable Energy Integration training programme that aims to empower the citizens of the Pacific Islands to capitalise on their



valuable renewable resources.

He added: "In collaboration with its strategic partners from the ranks of local and international organisations, the Fund contributes to the advancement of renewable energy in all corners of the world. We are proud of the lasting success of the UAE-PPF."

The training follows a high-level meeting between Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in New Zealand in May 2018. The two countries discussed opportunities to enhance cooperation in investment,

trade, food security, and energy including renewable energy. The UAE and New Zealand have a long track record of cooperation in the renewable energy sector, notably including the Solomon Islands' largest-ever solar plant.

Khaled Ballaith, Director of Energy Services at Masdar, said: "With 11 renewable energy projects now operating across the Pacific Islands, the need for continuous local capacity-building is critical. At Masdar, we are pleased to leverage our expertise and the experience we gained from the UAE-PPF initiative to deliver a region-specific training programme that develops the skills of the local workforce and supports economic self-sufficiency of

remote island states."

The 11 projects delivered by Masdar through the UAE-PPF collectively increased the renewable energy generation capacity in the Pacific by 6.5 megawatts.

They notably replace 3.2 million litres of imported diesel, annually saving the islands US\$3.7 million in fuel costs, and displacing 8,447 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

Building on the success of the UAE-PPF, MoFAIC launched the ADFD-funded US\$50 million UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAE-CREF) in January 2017 to deploy renewable energy projects in 16 Caribbean countries.





## Cyclist aims at world record to protect the planet

World famous Austrian cyclist Michael Strasser has launched a record-breaking distance cycling attempt, intended to raise awareness for climate change action. Strasser's world-record ride, dubbed Ice2Ice will take him from Alaska to Patagonia – the longest overland route available – to demonstrate the links between personal transportation choices and climate change.

“It’s great to welcome Michael Strasser to work with us on protecting our mountains. His message is simple but powerful. Each and every one of us can shape the future we want, and I hope Michael will inspire many more of us!” said Head of UN Environment, Erik Solheim.

Michael becomes the first cyclist to join UN Environment’s Mountain Heroes Campaign alongside Kenyan skier Sabrina Simader and British climber Ben Fogle. The initiative seeks to raise awareness and inspire action for the protection of mountain ecosystems, by partnering with extraordinary athletes.

Mountains are home to millions of people, and provide crucial ecosystem services for the entire globe, including freshwater. They are also centres of biological diversity, and beloved tourist destinations. However, climate change is causing glaciers, a rich source of drinking water, to retreat and unique plants and animals

in mountain regions to start vanishing.

Climate change disproportionately affects the Arctic, Antarctica and mountain areas, which is highly visible by the loss of ice and snow cover. Within the period between 1960 and 2003 glaciers in Patagonia and Alaska have thinned by approximately 35m and 25m.

The rise of mountain tourism has also created new streams of waste that put additional pressure on these already fragile habitats. Of the many thousands of tourists who increasingly flock to the beauty of mountain ranges worldwide, most are unaware just how delicate these ecosystems truly are.

## Sustainability

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

UN Environment and Google announce ground-breaking partnership to protect our planet



The tech company has agreed to partner with UN Environment to increase the world's access to valuable environmental data.

UN Environment and Google have announced a global partnership that promises to change the way we see our planet. Combining environmental science, big data and unprecedented accessibility, this joint effort aims to expand what the world knows about the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems.

When completed, the platform will leverage Google's cloud computing and earth observation public catalogs and for the first time enable governments, NGO's and the public to track

specific environment-related development targets with a user-friendly Google front-end. "We will only be able to solve the biggest environmental challenges of our time if we get the data right," Head of UN Environment Erik Solheim said. "UN Environment is excited to be partnering with Google, to make sure we have the most sophisticated online tools to track progress, identify priority areas for our action, and bring us one step closer to a sustainable world."

Too often, when a country seeks to implement real-time

environmental action, they find their efforts halted by gaps in critical data needed to direct those actions safely and effectively. Through this partnership, and Google Earth Engine's analysis and visualization tools, the world can finally begin to fill those gaps, enabling decision makers to better invest in environmental services.

"This partnership announcement builds on a common shared vision between our organizations," said Rebecca Moore, Director, Google Earth, Earth Engine & Earth Outreach. "We are excited



es for a better tomorrow

THE UNITED NATIONS' environmental agency has landed itself a powerful partner in the fight against climate change: Google.

to enable all countries with equal access to the latest technology and information in support of global climate action and sustainable development.”

Long term, the partnership hopes to establish a platform for open-source data and analysis of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As an entry point to development, the partnership launches with an initial focus on fresh-water ecosystems including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

These areas account for 0.01%

of the world’s water but provide habitat for almost 10% of the world’s known species and evidence suggests a rapid loss freshwater biodiversity.

Google will periodically produce geospatial maps and data on water-related ecosystems by employing massive parallel cloud computing technology. Satellite imagery and statistics will be generated to assess the extent of change occurring to waterbodies, and made freely accessible to ensure nations have the opportunity to track changes, prevent and reverse

ecosystem loss.

Other areas of collaboration include advocacy and capacitybuilding activities.

The partnership was launched during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in at UN Headquarters in New York, where world leaders gathered to review of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a set of clear, measurable goals for global development – as well as best practices and progress towards implementation.

Sustainability

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

Sustainable modern living with new eco-housing module



The housing sector uses 40 per cent of the planet's total resources and represents more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions.

UN Environment and Yale University in collaboration with UN Habitat have unveiled a new eco-housing module, to spark public discussion and new ideas on how sustainable design can provide decent, affordable housing while limiting the overuse of natural resources and climate change.

The 22-square-meter "tiny house" is fully powered by renewable energy and designed to test the potential for minimizing the use of natural resources such as water. The Ecological Living Module – unveiled during the United

Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – is constructed primarily from locally-sourced, bio-based renewable materials.

UN Environment's collaborator, the Yale Center for Ecosystems in Architecture, worked with Gray Organschi Architecture to design, fabricate and install the Ecological Living Module.

The unit is efficient and multi-functional, accommodating up to four people, serving both domestic and commercial purposes.

"We clearly need more housing, but the key thing is that we also need smarter housing" said UN Environment Head, Erik Solheim. "The housing sector uses 40 per cent of the planet's total resources and represents more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. So making them more efficient will benefit everyone, and it'll mean lower bills too. Innovations like the Ecological Living Module are what we need more of."

"Adequate housing is at the heart of sustainable urbanization," said UN-Habitat Executive Director,



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

CONSTRUCTED PRIMARILY from locally-sourced, bio-based renewable materials, the module is efficient, multi-functional and engineered to operate independently.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif. “The use of proper building materials, better planning and improved construction techniques can make energy use in buildings more efficient. If adopted widely, this practice can create jobs and prosperity with lower greenhouse gas emissions.”

Engineered to operate independently, the module’s built-in systems include solar energy generation using less than 1 percent of toxic semiconductor materials, on-site water collection, micro agricultural infrastructure,

natural daylighting, plant-based air purification, passive cross-ventilation, and a range of flexible, adaptable components for living and working.

Around one billion people worldwide currently live in informal settlements, while millions more live in buildings that are not environmentally friendly.

Rapid urbanization and economic growth challenge communities to sustainably expand capacity, heightening the need for innovation in building systems and infrastructure.

“Architecture must address the global housing challenge by integrating critically needed scientific and technical advances in energy, water, and material systems while remaining sensitive to the cultural and aesthetic aspirations of different regions,” said Deborah Berke, Dean of the Yale School of Architecture.

The first demonstration unit, located in New York City, contains features relevant to the local climate and context of New York. Future iterations of the module will respond specifically to local climatic and cultural contexts.



## Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Masdar agree to promote sustainable practices

**H**E Eng Abdullah bin Mohammed Balheif Al Nuaimi, Minister of Infrastructure Development, witnessed the signing of a cooperation between the Ministry and Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) supporting the application of sustainability best practices.

The agreement was signed by Eng Hassan Mohammed Jumaa Al Mansouri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, under which Masdar aims to provide technical advice in implementing a sustainable system in projects, as well as ways to develop and implement a

strategy aimed at strengthening the current sustainability standards of the Ministry.

HE Eng Hassan Mohammed Juma Al Mansouri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, welcomed the cooperation with Masdar, highlighting its role in supporting the UAE's approach to sustainability and environmental conservation, and in achieving the UAE Vision 2021 and the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan.

He pointed out that the Ministry seeks to look at the future of sustainability by launching initiatives that are closely related to the sustainability system and focusing on innovative ideas in the same

field.

According to Mohamed Al Ramahi, CEO of Masdar, "Through this latest agreement, our Energy Services department will be working closely with the Ministry's teams to help design a consistent set of sustainability standards that may be applied across its UAE projects. With improved energy efficiency a core component of the UAE 2050 Energy Plan, covering both existing buildings as well as new urban infrastructure, Masdar is taking the lead in offering a suite of energy efficiency enhancement services to both government and private sector clients, from auditing through to the financing and implementation of retrofitting projects."



## DHL Express drives energy efficient solutions with new electric vehicles in Dubai

**D**HL Express, the world's leading international express logistics provider, has partnered with Al Naboodah Automobiles to introduce for the first time in the region the all-electric Volkswagen e-Golf for deliveries and collections. This is in line with DHL's latest announcement on the Cubicycle, a cargo bike with a specialized container for clean pick-up and delivery. The introduction of sustainable solutions into the business are a leg up towards achieving DHL's zero emissions target by 2050.

The fully customized 134-horsepower electric-Golf car will initially be used for documents' delivery and collection specifically

throughout areas with a reputation of high volume traffic, such as Dubai International Financial Centre and Downtown Dubai, followed by gradual expansion to remaining UAE regions in the near future.

Running entirely on electrical current with a 100 kW AC electric motor, re-chargeable on standard power supply, it is also the only, fully customized commercial vehicle in the UAE with a segregated cargo bay separated from the driver. With its full adaptation to DHL's duties, the e-Golf has the capacity to complete a 250km journey operating on just a single charge as-well-as boasting advanced endurance capabilities when exposed to extreme, warm

weather climates. The innovative vehicle also uses a regenerative braking system, allowing the conversion of stored kinetic energy to be used to recharge its batteries. Highlighting the significance of the launch, Geoff Walsh, UAE Country Manager for DHL Express commented, "DHL Express aims to bring our logistic-related emissions to zero by 2050. The introduction of e-Golf is an important step towards implementing our vision to protect the environment, and inspire the entire logistics industry in reducing the impact of day-to-day operations. We are confident that this new and advanced method of delivery will contribute significantly to a more sustainable way of operating in the region."





## People of Determination participate in environmental activities

**A**s part of its continuous efforts to ensure participation of the People of Determination in environmental activities the Waste Management Department of Dubai Municipality organized a two-day Awareness Program in the field of sustainable waste management at the Summer Camp of Dubai Club for the People of Determination.

The Awareness Program was part of enriching the summer activities of the Club and was aimed at making the People of Determination happy, qualifying them, integrating them with their surroundings and raising their awareness on the importance of maintaining cleanliness in order to keep the city of Dubai clean,

green and sustainable.

The program, attended by more than 100 people, also witnessed the participation of the character “Nadhoof,” a favorite of children and the public and a symbolic character designed by the Waste Management Department to express the profession of cleaning workers in Dubai Municipality.

Eng. Abdul Majeed Saifaie, Director of Waste Management Department said that the Department is committed to meeting the needs of all categories of the society in the field of environmental awareness and involvement in environmental responsibility, especially the People of

Determination to empower them and highlight their capabilities in a free and barrier-free community to make Dubai home to creative individuals who are proud and happy to live in a cohesive and coherent society.

During the program, a drawing and coloring workshop was organized, and gifts were distributed with awareness messages about the importance of contribution and participation in maintaining public cleanliness.

The workshop is aimed at encouraging People of Determination and raising awareness about various areas of municipal work through fun-filled activities and interaction in a positive and excellent way.





## Five eco-inclusive enterprises receive prestigious SEED Low Carbon Awards

From a collaborative recycling WebApp enabling waste management services to users in Colombia to composters designed for urban households in India – these are few highlights of the innovative five winners of this year’s SEED Low Carbon Awards announced during the High Level Political Forum 2018 in New York.

The SEED global partnership recognizes the most innovative, inclusive and environmentally friendly start-ups in developing countries and provides them with business know-how support and profiles them regionally and nationally to help them grow and share their experiences.

SEED was founded in 2002 by

the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The 2018 SEED Low Carbon Awards are supported by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

This year’s SEED Awards are placing particular emphasis on eco-inclusive enterprises from Colombia, India, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda. During the coming months these winners will be supported by SEED through tailored one-on-one advisory service that offers assistance with their business and financial plan, as

well as additional marketing and promotional activities to scale their operations and provide replicable business cases that can be established by peers all around the world. The support methodology and content is based on SEED’s more than 10 years of experience in assisting eco-inclusive enterprises globally.

The winners will also join a network of more than 230 enterprises from 38 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America – laureates of the SEED Awards. The winners will be honoured at the SEED’s high-level Awards Ceremony. These five winning enterprises were selected by an independent Jury of International Experts from nearly 250 applications.



## Is the Warming Limit of 2°C Safe for Life on Earth?

The Paris Agreement of 2015 established two main goals: to hold temperature rise from pre-industrial times below 2°C and to strive for 1.5°C to be on the safe side. It was agreed that these limits and the status of implementation will be reviewed in 2018. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been reviewing these goals to publish a scientific analysis by October 2018 based on recent research.

The Climate Home News published the summary of a major UN climate change report stating clearly that the difference between warming of 1.5°C and 2°C would be “substantial” and damaging to communities, economies and ecosystems across the world. In other words, the upper temperature goal of the Paris Agreement does not represent a climate safe zone.

The June draft builds a stronger case for rapidly cutting down carbon pollution as it made it clear that there is a big difference between the two Paris temperature goals. The authors were also more optimistic on the attainability of the 1.5°C target.

The report continues to be reviewed and redrafted taking in a number of published studies focusing on the differing impacts of 1.5°C and 2°C warming including new evidence on the impacts on species, the economy, physical systems and invasive pests.

One study predicted at least one sea ice free Arctic summer per decade at 2°C, whereas this would happen just once per century at 1.5°C. Economic growth is projected to be lower at 2°C than at 1.5°C of global warming for many developed and developing countries.

But is the 1.5°C target feasible?

The 1.5°C threshold is expected to be reached in the 2040s if we continue to pollute our environment at the current rate of roughly 0.2°C per decade. However, the new draft shows a significant increase in the “carbon budget”, the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted before crossing the 1.5°C limit. This was estimated to be 580 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> for a 50% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C. In the new draft, this amount increased by a third to 750 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>. Hence, the possibility of keeping the warming below 1.5°C has changed from virtually unachievable to challenging but possible.

Achieving the 1.5°C goal in all cases requires CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity to reach net zero by mid-century, leaving way for solar energy, wind energy and electricity storage technologies to do the job. Accordingly, pressure on countries is piling up to update promises to cut emissions before 2030. Radical emissions cuts are needed in industry, agriculture, transport and buildings, where technology exists but faces economic and social barriers.

We have to be optimistic and work hard towards an energy transformation to clean fuel and a more efficient management of natural resources. We should not rely on technology & legislation only, but rather energize people & communities to do their part by raising their awareness.

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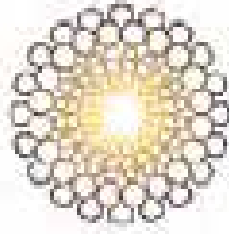
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