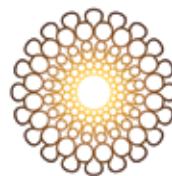


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Issue 158

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



Earth Hour achieves
outstanding energy
consumption and carbon
dioxide reduction levels

Green initiatives across UAE mark launch of 36th Plantation Week



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

For one hour every year, people all over the world have been coming together in a show of unity as a symbol of their commitment to the cause of protecting the planet and promoting sustainability. The growing global success of the Earth Hour movement sends a strong message that many communities around the world are aware of the challenges faced by the planet and want action to be taken in order to create a more sustainable world.

One of the main challenges of the 21st century is the task of building an environmentally sustainable economy and society where financial and ecological goals are in harmony. The current evidence for rapid climate change is compelling - with global warming proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented in the past 1,300 years - and therefore the need to move towards sustainability is also more pressing than ever before. While this transition is a global challenge, it also requires the support of local initiatives to make it successful.

In the UAE, we have seen that the various projects and policies that the UAE leadership has adopted are indicative of its strategy of green growth. The country is bolstering its credentials as the natural leader in the quest for a greener world with its shift towards a green economy encompassing environmental, social and economic aspects of progress.

Together with government intervention it is also important to bring the community together to determine the best strategies and avenues to build a sustainable economy and move beyond fossil fuel dependence. At the 36th Plantation Week held throughout the UAE last month, we saw how public-private participation strengthened the concept of sustainability amongst all segments of the society.

By continuing to support and encourage expansion of green spaces to overcome the harsh geographical challenges of the region, the UAE is showcasing the importance of conserving and enhancing greenery amongst its citizens and empowering its diverse communities to protect their natural resources and use them more wisely.

Contents

4

creating green community



**Zayed
Foundation 06**
Zayed Foundation
to host major
Global South-South
Development Expo
2016



Cover Story 10
Earth Hour achieves
outstanding energy
consumption and
carbon dioxide
reduction levels



Cover Story 16
Green initiatives
across UAE mark
launch of 36th
Plantation Week



**World Water
Day 24**
Stakeholders in the
UAE have adopted
initiatives aimed at
reducing the impact
of water footprint
across all sectors

Exhibition 28
International power
industry's leading
names converge
at Middle East
Electricity in Dubai



CONSERVATION 36
A new wildlife
reserve, Al
Hefaiyah Mountain
Conservation Centre
for endangered
animals, opens in
Sharjah

Innovation 42
Abu Dhabi hosts the
world's first facility
that is growing both
food and fuel in a
desert ecosystem



Conservation 52
25 Scimitar Horned
Oryx have been
successfully
reintroduced in an
isolated natural
reserve in Chad

Automobiles 56
With the launch of
The Mirai by Toyota,
hydrogen fuel cell
vehicles could change
mobility forever.



**World Wildlife
Day 64**
With levels of
elephant poaching
remaining alarmingly
high, UN implores
urgent action to end
poaching crisis

From the Managing Editor



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

On March 19th when we celebrated Earth Hour, millions of ordinary individuals across the globe came together with one voice and in a symbolic gesture to be a part of the solution for the issues affecting climate change.

People are at the heart of climate change and climate solutions but the reality of climate change also demands that nations worldwide commit to research and development projects to reduce carbon pollution that's warming our planet and jeopardizing the future of our children and grandchildren. Apart from positive steps being made towards achieving an international agreement on climate change, we also need the support of science to come up with

real, innovative solutions and fresh approaches in responding to climate change. I believe the role of science and innovation in helping create a more stable climate is critical.

I was extremely honored, therefore, last month when I was bestowed with the Sayidaty magazine's Award for Excellence and Innovation 2016 in Medicine and Science category for my contributions to the field of forensic science as Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy and also in recognition of my services in tackling and raising awareness on environmental issues in my capacity as Secretary General of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.

The award also represents the culmination of the Arab woman's efforts; it aims to highlight her innovations, to be a role model for generations to come and take her full role in the regeneration of communities - and for this honor, I am truly grateful.

This award was presented during the month celebrating International Women's Day. I sincerely believe that involving women in protecting the environment would help societies develop the sense of responsibility needed to maintain a good balance between humans and the earth's resources.

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Zayed Foundation to host major Global South-South Development Expo 2016



Scheduled to be held from 30th October to 3rd November 2016, the eighth annual Global South-South Development Expo will be hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of UAE.

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmad bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, headed a meeting of Higher Committee members of the Zayed Foundation to discuss both organizational and logistical operations of hosting the Global South-South Development Expo 2016 later this year.

Scheduled to be held from 30th October to 3rd November 2016, the eighth annual Global South-South Development Expo is hosted by the Zayed

International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of UAE and will strategically engage all development actors, including the private sector and civil society, to scale up concrete Southern-grown initiatives to help achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meeting was held at the Dubai Police Academy in March in the presence of Dr. Meshgan Mohammed Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International

Prize for the Environment; Engineer Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, Secretary General of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment, and other members of the Zayed Foundation's Higher Committee including Ali Ahmed Al-Najjar, Financial Advisor, Dr. Khalid Ahmed Omer, Legal Advisor and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed Foundation.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Mohammad bin Fahad welcomed new members of the Higher Committee including



The award ceremony of the 7th cycle of the Zayed Prize and the launch of the third cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award will be held this year.

Mrs. Maryam Saeed Hareb from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Alia Abdel Rahim Al Harmoudi, Director of Environment at Dubai Municipality, and Aseela Abdullah Al-Mualla from Fujairah Municipality.

Speaking about the vision of the Founding Father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in pursuing development that meets the needs of present and future generations, Dr. Bin Fahad said that the wise leader had infused in the UAE a spirit of responsibility and

collaboration to ensure the sustainable development of the UAE. The Rio Summit's Principle 10 adheres to this same view, he added, which states that "environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level."

The Zayed Foundation is proud to host a major event such as the Global South-South Development Expo 2016, he noted, adding that it would be held in tandem with the award ceremony of the 7th cycle of the Zayed International Prize

for the Environment and the launch of the third cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Meshgan Mohammed Al Awar pointed out that the 7th cycle of Zayed Prize was coming to a close and a press conference would be held soon to announce the winners. "The achievements and contributions of the winners of the past six cycles has left a clear imprint on the environmental arena at both the regional and international levels," she said. "The 7th cycle



of Zayed Prize will also give away the Young Scientists Award for Environmental Sustainability for the first time which is to be awarded to an individual for research in Environmental Science and Green Technology that has contributed significantly to the improvement of the world environment and sustainable development."

"The Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment," said Engineer Hamdan Al Shaer, "is a Dh1million award aimed at promoting environmental initiatives in the UAE and comprises of five categories open to corporates, government institutions, civil society

and individuals. It seeks to recognize and promote the values of sustainable living and environmentally conscious initiatives among the UAE community, and to recognize outstanding achievements in the field of environment and energy conservation across all sectors of society."

The Award also seeks to support and encourage individual and collective national environmental initiatives that will contribute to the Green Development Strategy of the UAE, he added.

In January this year, His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler

of Dubai, honored winners of the 2nd cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment in five different categories.

"The launch of the third cycle," he added, "is likely to commence towards the end of September 2016 while preparations for the same including field visits would continue until June 2017."





Planting a greener future in the UAE

McDonald's UAE, in collaboration with the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), have launched the second phase of their CSR initiative 'Planting a Greener Future'.

In the aim of teaching UAE school children eco-friendly values, McDonald's UAE and EEG planted 50 indigenous trees, at Al Aasimah Primary School in Al Shamkha, Abu Dhabi. This is the first of seven school visits across the UAE scheduled for the campaign which will run from March 2016 to March 2017.

In April 2014, McDonald's UAE and EEG inaugurated the 'Planting a Greener Future' initiative by teaming up with seven government schools across the seven Emirates

over a one-year period.

They planted a total of 350 trees, replaced 5000 m3 of sand for sweet soil, and implemented a fully-fledged irrigation system to encourage the growth of fresh grass in each school, in the aim of providing an area for children to exercise and for recreational purposes.

It is an educational journey during which they will learn about the suitable soil and irrigations system required for the different species of flora that can grow safely in the UAE climate.

It is with this mindset that the company has launched the 2016 second phase of this initiative. Planting a Greener Future

campaign will increase the amount of greenery in schools which will provide numerous benefits such as natural shade, storm water mitigation and the improvement of air quality through natural filtration.

Rafic Fakhri, Partner and Managing Director at McDonald's UAE, commented on today's school visit: "We are proud to be expanding our outreach to more schools in the country. The children are so actively involved, highlighting how much potential there is in teaching them about our environment."

Habiba Al Marashi, Chairperson of the EEG, stated: "It is a top priority for us to instill these values in today's children, so they can pass them down to their children."

Cover Story

10

creating green communities

Earth Hour achieves outstanding energy consumption and carbon dioxide reduction levels



Earth Hour rolled across the globe on Saturday, 19 March 2016, uniting individuals, communities and organizations in an unprecedented 178 countries and territories.

Earth Hour 2016 has achieved outstanding results for Dubai, as organised by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority for the ninth consecutive year, in line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council.

Earth Hour 2016 activities

saw a 222MW reduction in the consumption of electricity, and a reduction of 96 tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions. This reflects Dubai's commitment to protecting natural resources and reducing the country's carbon footprint.

Through this annual event, DEWA aimed to raise awareness among the community and promote the rational consumption of resources as part of daily life, in addition to highlighting the importance of protecting the environment to make a positive change,

and supporting national efforts to enhance sustainable development in Dubai. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and MD and CEO of DEWA participated in the activities. Government organisations, private companies, universities, schools and individuals also took part.

Earth Hour 2016 included a host of family and entertainment activities to spread environmental awareness. In cooperation with the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence,



Since 2007, Earth Hour has mobilized businesses, organizations, governments and hundreds of millions of individuals in over 7,000 cities and more than 170 countries and territories to act for a sustainable future.

DCCE, DEWA launched the Carbon Neutral Initiative, to neutralise all carbon emissions during Earth Hour. This was achieved by projects based on the Kyoto Protocol, which is directly linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

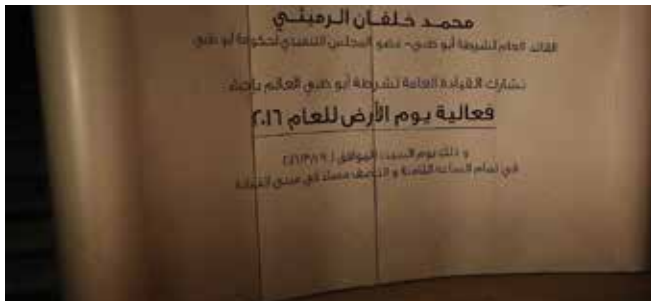
DEWA also launched its 'Shine a light on Climate Action' campaign, to raise awareness about the dangers of the increasing effects of climate change, and emphasise the importance of the rationalised use of electricity and water.

"We are pleased to organise this event in partnership with the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and the Emirates Wildlife Society, in association with the World Wide Fund for Nature and in cooperation with Dubai Properties Group, DPG. This supports the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum who has laid down the foundations for a sustainable future for present and future generations through a vision, creative initiatives, and quality programmes.

"The directions of His Highness

have been translated into real initiatives with close follow-up from His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid, which has helped Dubai become a world model for clean and renewable energy, sustainability, and other environmental issues that are of interest to governments and individuals alike," said Al Tayer.

"Dubai was the first Arab city to participate in Earth Hour in 2008, to support and incubate initiatives and events that promote public awareness on environmental issues and the



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



sustainable development of the UAE, and the region.

“We are proud of the community’s participation in this annual event, and how much energy consumption levels have been reduced by over the years. This supports the long term ‘Green Economy for Sustainable Development’ initiative, launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to achieve sustainable development in Dubai, and enhance its position as a global hub for trade, finance, and the green economy, creating a sustainable future for the emirate.

“Earth Hour 2016 also adheres

to the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, which aims to transform the emirate into an international hub for clean energy and green economy, making Dubai the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050,” added Al Tayer.

Al Tayer went on to say that the UAE was one of the first countries to support international society to meet the challenges of climate change and one of the first nations to endorse the extension of the Kyoto Protocol in 2005 to limit greenhouse gases in industrial countries. It was the first nation from the region to sign the Copenhagen Accord at COP15 to limit emissions.

Al Tayer urged government and private organisations, and individuals, to combine efforts to achieve the Dubai Plan 2021 to make Dubai a smart, integrated, and connected city whose resources are sustainable. Collective efforts will conserve energy and will help reduce the carbon footprint, create a sustainable future and enhance the pillars of sustainability, “Earth Hour goes beyond turning off the lights for one hour. It is an international call to strengthen collaboration to promote a culture of conservation, and make it a part of our daily lives. This supports our efforts to promote sustainable development,” Al Tayer concluded.

‘Earth Hour reminds us that while people are on the frontlines of climate change, they are also our first line of defense.’

Siddarth Das, Executive Director, Earth Hour Global



‘UAE committed to efforts to curb climate change’

UAE Minister of Energy, Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, has stressed that the UAE is fully committed to international efforts towards curbing climate change and detrimental human impact on the environment by promoting rationalised consumption of energy and decreasing carbon dioxide emissions.

In a statement on the occasion of Earth Hour, he said that the UAE, by participating in the event, aims to promote environmental awareness about the escalating danger of carbon emissions across the world. “The government of the UAE takes great interest

in preserving and rationalising energy consumption in line with the principles of green economy to build a future that is environmentally more sustainable for the generations to come,” Al Mazrouei said.

He noted that his ministry continues to encourage initiatives and projects aimed at reducing energy waste.

Sharjah switches its lights off

Sharjah Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in collaboration with Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA) marked Earth Hour, through a variety of activities held at Al Majaz Waterfront. Themed “this Earth Hour, Shine a Light on

Climate Action”, the event is part of the intergovernmental coordination efforts in the emirate of Sharjah and in line with the corporate social responsibility commitment.

The activities included an awareness exhibition about Earth Hour, a themed wall graphic, selfies, educational workshops, audience competitions, entertaining clowns, glowing T-shirts and other giveaways and educational brochures.

The event aimed to promote the partnership work between local government’s entities, reinforce the sense of social responsibility to preserve the environment and rationalize



the energy consumption and mainstream the principles of sustainable development among various social sectors.

Skylines darken for Earth Hour across the globe

As the 10th edition of Earth Hour rolled across the world from Samoa to Santiago on March 19, millions came together to shine a light on the climate action our planet needs.

The global movement's signature lights out event saw individuals, communities, organizations and landmarks in an unprecedented 178 countries and territories switch off in solidarity with global efforts to change climate change.

Taking place months after the historic climate summit in Paris, Earth Hour 2016 was celebrated across seven continents, aboard the International Space Station and served as a strong visual reminder of the globe's determination to tackle our planet's biggest environmental challenge yet.

As more than 400 iconic landmarks dimmed their lights, a collective hope that our actions today can create promise for the planet and future generations shined through.

"The past 24 hours have shown us yet again the impact we can achieve when we unite for

a cause," said Siddarth Das, Executive Director, Earth Hour Global. "Every light switch turned off represents a call to switch on our collective power and be the first line of defense for our planet as we form the frontlines of climate change."

While the Earth Hour movement has grown from a one-city event in Sydney in 2007 to the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, the need for climate action has also accelerated.

This year, WWF and Earth Hour teams used the Earth Hour movement to engage people in critical climate conversations and solutions.

The Earth Hour movement has grown from a one-city event in Sydney in 2007 to the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment.



In the World Heritage site of the Galápagos Islands, where Earth Hour has previously helped achieve a ban on disposable plastic bags and expanded polystyrene packaging, the WWF-Ecuador team centred its Earth Hour event on the theme of locally-grown produce. As an island, access to food is a key issue for the Galápagos Islands and WWF-Ecuador is also partnering with restaurants and the hospitality sector in mainland Ecuador to create awareness on sustainable food.

In Tanzania, WWF-Tanzania's Earth Hour campaign brought people together to install a solar-powered water pump to serve a primary school and

local dispensary in the Temeke Municipality.

"As new climate records are broken month after month, the record-breaking participation of Earth Hour reminds us that we are also witnessing mounting momentum to change climate change. The grassroots are meeting the governments in their ambition for strong climate action, sparking hope for the future we can shape for generations to come," he added.

These words were echoed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a video statement recorded for the movement in which he states that Earth Hour 2016 comes at a pivotal moment when the road ahead

requires commitment and ambition and we all have a role to play.

To date in 2016, WWF's Earth Hour has been the force behind more than 1.23 million individual actions taken to help change climate change including participating in activities for reforestation and recycling, digital petitions for climate-friendly policy and online campaigns to promote climate awareness and action.

"As the world stands at a climate crossroads, Earth Hour has ensured that the demand for climate action echoes across the globe, from glass skylines to digital timelines," said Das.

Cover Story

16

creating green communities

Green initiatives across UAE mark launch of 36th Plantation Week



The campaign aims to encourage planting trees, protecting the environment, and expanding green areas across the UAE.

H.H. Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman, has commended the efforts of Municipality and Planning Department, Ajman to increase the green areas in the emirate.

He also praised the keenness of the civic body on increasing the number of parks in various areas, achieving the leadership's vision and the dream of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to launch the Plantation Week 36 years ago under the theme "Together we can make the UAE green".

Sheikh Humaid made his remarks at the official opening of Al Sufia Park in Mushairaf area in Ajman, on the occasion of the launch of the 36th Plantation Week in the UAE. Built at a cost of AED 9 million, the park includes facilities which provide services to the visitors in the area.

Sheikh Humaid and those accompanying him toured the park facilities. At the event, His Excellency Yahya Ibrahim Ahmed, Director General of the Municipality and Planning Department in Ajman, stressed the importance of community

participation in the activities of the 36th Plantation Week held in early March. He praised the agricultural events organized by schools during the week-long celebrations and commended their efforts to contribute to planting flowers in schoolyards and organizing traditional and agricultural activities in addition to organizing a free art studio for children and a recycling lab for recycling consumer products such as cans, bottles, blankets and cardboard.

The Municipality and Planning Department in Ajman also marked



The Plantation Week campaign seeks public participation in efforts to preserve and widen green cover.

the event with the opening of a nursery at the Mushiraf Health Center in the presence of Azzah bint Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Director General of the Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi Foundation, and the participation of several members of the community at the health center.

In a related event, Ahmed Saif Al Muhairi, Director of the Agriculture and Public Parks Administration in Ajman, opened a nursery in Rawdat Al Hayah in Al Nuaimya in addition to another nursery in Afraa bint Obaid Al Ansariya School in Al Jarf area, in which the students participated

in the flowers and trees planting activities.

The Agriculture and Public Parks Administration also distributed various seedlings to all members of the society, government departments and institutions in the emirate to strengthen the participation concept among all segments of the society in the activities of the Plantation Week this year.

New park opened in Mohammed Bin Zayed City

As part of the Municipality of Abu Dhabi City's efforts to

promote greening during the 36th Plantation Week, a new Dh12 million park was opened in Mohammed bin Zayed City in the UAE capital on March 7, 2016.

Musabbah Mubarak Al Murar, Acting General Manager of Abu Dhabi Municipality said: "The Municipality is moving ahead with its plan to diversify parks and recreational facilities in Abu Dhabi city and suburbs, as well as in modern and rapidly growing cities such as Mohammed Bin Zayed City. This initiative will suffice the needs of community members of parks and recreational facilities."



Designed to the highest standards of safety, the new park spans an area of 4,538 square meters and includes 240 different trees, 63 date trees as well as 597.25 square meters of artificial green surfaces. The Municipality has fitted the park with an automated irrigation system below ground level and there are many seating and play areas. The park has shaded areas covering 952.2 square meters, two water pumps and an irrigation water pumping room.

The park also features 89 various-sized seats, 28 tables, 33 rubbish bins and nine different games. The park has an extended area of rubber flooring, in addition to paved corridors gravel floor and sandy areas. The new park is

expected to serve residents of Mohammad Bin Zayed City, which is expected to eventually house 215,000 residents.

The 36th Plantation Week activities in Abu Dhabi attracted participation from a wide spectrum of community members and students of both public and private schools. As part of the festivities, schoolchildren presented their knowledge of sustainability, and the importance of preserving greenery. An exhibition showcased the latest agricultural and irrigation practices.

Other main events included an operetta delivered by female students of Khalifa School, a variety of workshops for

agriculture, reading material about landscaping, handicrafts, drawing and fun games in addition to a photo gallery and equipment exhibition.

The Abu Dhabi City Municipality and all municipal centres have distributed thousands of flower and plant seedlings, in addition to publishing thousands of educational and leaflets about the protection of the environment, parks, greens and plants in streets, public facilities as well as open areas.

'Green spaces are international standard in classification of smart & sustainable cities'

H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment who

The Plantation Week is an attempt to create awareness among the public – especially children – about the importance of conserving and enhancing greenery.



inaugurated 36th Plantation Week in Fujairah revealed that plantation and the increased number of green spaces have become highly important, especially now that the country is exerting key efforts in developing into one of the world's sustainable and smart cities.

He stated that green spaces are an essential element in adding aesthetic values as well as providing social and environmental benefits. It improves the quality of air, absorbs greenhouse gases, maintains biodiversity, conserves the soil, and reduces dust and sand storms. He added that green spaces are considered as an international standard in the classification of smart and

sustainable cities, ecological footprint measurement and within the sustainable development goals issued and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly last year.

The inauguration was held at Hotel Novotel in Fujairah. H.E. AlZeyoudi said: "The annual Plantation Week is an important national ceremony to remember the achievement of the UAE's founding father, H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who dedicated his time and effort in changing the country's landscape from desert to greenery. Taking his inimitable experience as a motivation, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi; H.H. Mohammed bin

Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai; and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; and Their Highnesses Members of The Federal Supreme Council, continues to support and encourage expansion of green spaces to overcome the harsh geographical challenges of the region."

The Minister said that the UAE's citizens are emotionally, economically, and environmentally attached to agriculture and plantation. Despite the challenges of a harsh climate, water scarcity, and poor soil, its people have developed



urban planning policies that take into account usage of land and protected landscapes. Through their will and relying on traditional and sustainable trends, people of the UAE have been successfully preserving biodiversity, combating desertification, enhancing fragile environmental regions, and conserving soil to reduce the impacts of the climate change.

In line with the initiative of the 36th Plantation Week, H.E. AlZeyoudi planted a tree in Fujairah. He reiterated the importance of making this ceremony a part of the community's culture, encouraging their involvement in agriculture.

Palm Oasis Park opens in Dubai
Kicking off the 36th Plantation

Week activities of the Dubai Municipality, His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum inaugurated Al Nakheel (Palm) Park beside Al Awir Roundabout in Al Awir 2 area. HH Sheikh Rashid, Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, and other senior officials of the municipality also planted a palm tree to mark the occasion.

The multi-functional, themed park is shaped in the form of a palm tree to give visitors an insight into about 150 varieties of date palms in the UAE.

Speaking at the event, Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Director of the Parks and Horticulture Department in

Dubai said, "The date palm is a symbol of the UAE's culture and heritage. We should give more opportunities for tourists and the young generation to know more about it and connect them to our past. The aim of Al Nakheel Park is to do that and support farming and sale of dates."

Around 1,500 palms will dot the Dh24.3-million Al Nakheel Park spread across in 11 hectares once the entire project is complete.

"We have already planted 60 varieties of date palms here. We are collecting some of the rare varieties from different parts of the country. We will plant them all by this month end," he said.

Each frond of the palm-shaped

Planting trees and developing greenery in the surroundings have been a continuous task of the UAE government to overcome the desert and transform it into a giving and lively environment.



park is dotted with one variety of date palm. Al Awadi said the park has been made smart and sustainable by using solutions like QR Code and solar panels.

By scanning the QR Code placed on a steel board at the entrance of the park, visitors can get details on all the facilities inside the park. Similarly, the description about each variety of palm can be accessed by scanning the QR Code placed in the beginning of each frond of the palm park.

All lighting in the park is powered by solar panels and most of the facilities use recycled materials. The park includes a plaza for various activities, a lake, sitting areas for families and two play

areas for children. Various elements from the yesteryears like pergolas thatched with dry palm leaves have been fixed at the park. It also showcases the old canal system of irrigation.

The municipality's plan is to provide a platform for traditional dances, handicrafts and ethnic cooking at the park. The civic body has also made a building to arrange the provision for selling dates and related products, conduct workshops for children and also host date festivals at the park.

The 36th Plantation Week activities in Dubai also saw the opening of three additional neighbourhood parks located in the residential areas of Oud

Al Muteena 1, Mankhool and Al Warqa 2.

The new neighbourhood parks are built at a cost of Dh20.5 million.

Play grounds and other basic facilities existing in neighbourhood parks are available in all these parks. Al Twar 2 Park has a plaza for women and children. The park in Warqaa 2 has a football court while that in Oud Al Muteena 1 has a jogging track and three other sport courts.

The Dh7-million Oud Al Muteena 1 Park is the largest among the new neighbourhood parks. It caters to the housing project for Emiratis by the Mohammed bin Rashid Housing Establishment.

Food Security

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 agency hails UAE's role in promoting food security



The UAE is playing a key role in promoting food security and addressing water scarcity worldwide, says FAO Director-General.

Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Jose Graziano da Silva, wrapped up an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 15th March 2016 where he participated in the eighth session of the Khalifa International Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation Award and held a series of talks with counterparts from the region.

This year's Khalifa Award launching ceremony honored FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) among other institutions.

Speaking at the award ceremony, the FAO Director-General praised the UAE for their strong support of innovation and future-oriented trends.

"FAO is proud to partner with the Khalifa International Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation Award, a major initiative that highlights the importance of the date palm beyond the oases of the UAE," Graziano da Silva said.

"While we at FAO are looking for new products to feed the hungry and help farmers to overcome poverty and face the challenges

imposed by climate change, we see the date palm tree as a global model of resilience, and as a product with a glorious past and a promising future," he added.

Commending the UAE for attaching great importance to the agricultural sector, he pointed out that FAO is at the forefront of assisting the country in its pioneering role in managing energy, water and food resources for sustainable growth and in adapting and mitigating climate change. Unlocking the potential of protected agriculture to cut water use in the region is one important



The UAE adopts several projects focusing on innovation to develop capabilities in agricultural production and food security in collaboration with FAO.

area for innovation.

FAO says that in arid regions such as the Gulf, protected agriculture (PA) is a feasible option for developing the agricultural sector. In addition to protecting crops in enclosed controlled environment, PA extends the growing season and ensures high profitability and sustainability of an agricultural enterprise.

In an interview with WAM, the FAO Director-General praised the UAE for providing strong support for innovation and future-oriented trends.

He noted that historically, the date palm tree is the source of food and income for people living in the desert. He praised the UAE for promoting knowledge about the tree and the importance of date palm industry which constitutes a cornerstone of the country's future food security.

He also noted that in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, home to a historic flourishing date palm agriculture, the crucial relationship between sustainable agriculture and the human ability to weather challenges in the desert cannot be mistaken.

During his two-day visit, the FAO Director-General met with national authorities to discuss a range of topics that define the close partnership between FAO and the UAE, as well as ways to boost bilateral ties.



World Water Day

24

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

‘Water sector will always have priority in the UAE’



Stakeholders in the UAE have adopted initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of water footprint across all sectors, says the Minister of Climate Change and Environment on the occasion of World Water Day.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment joined the global celebration of World Water Day on March 22, which was held under the slogan, ‘Water and Jobs’. This worldwide celebration aimed to showcase the ability of the water sector to provide job opportunities, thereby helping out in the move to eradicate global poverty while also enhancing work environment conditions and promote an increase in productivity and improved efficiencies among all employees.

Speaking ahead of this momentous

occasion, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said that the Ministry has placed great importance and priority to the water segment, emphasizing the significant role it plays in the road towards achieving sustainable development under the vision of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

“The geographical and climatic conditions of the country show an

absence of natural water sources, lack of rain and increasingly hot temperatures- leading to high evaporation activity. These have become challenges in the move to provide the country with a stable supply of water. As a solution, the UAE has adopted seawater desalination and the utilisation of processed water as part of a water resources diversification strategy,” said Minister Al Zeyoudi.

These two options are expected to provide a stable supply of pure water for use by all sectors. However, the rising costs of these processes and its impact on the



The UAE has adopted important steps as part of the country's commitment of developing sustainable and innovative solutions to ensure access to adequate water for its people.

environment has led the UAE's wise leadership to look into other procedures, which makes use of more modern technologies and are based on best practices, like the use of renewable energy as seen in the launch of the water desalination facilities in Al Ghantoot, Abu Dhabi last year.

Stakeholders in the UAE have adopted initiatives aimed towards preserving and further developing water resources--reducing the impact of a water foot-print across all sectors and complying with an integrated system of management for water resources.

These initiatives also include the creation of key legislation and reinforced co-ordination among concerned stakeholders, which also involves the move to develop the agriculture segment, in order to create a balance between water and food security.

This involves key activities like expanding advanced irrigation systems use, less water use for agriculture and crops patterns, digging wells, expanding and managing local dams according to best practices and maintaining a strategic storage of fresh water, develop mandatory

national specifications for water equipment and utilization of advanced technologies to decrease the consumption in the urban sector and apply economical techniques for water costing.

The Ministry remains highly confident that positive results from these endeavors will be felt in the next few years, which will bring us closer to the achievement of the set goals and objectives of UAE Vision 2021 and the country's sustainable development goals for 2030.

The UAE has adopted important steps as part of the country's



commitment of developing sustainable and innovative solutions, which includes the allocation of a part of aid to establish water and sewage projects in developing countries to ensure job opportunities in this sector; the launch of the UAE Water Aid Foundation, which recently launched the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award to encourage research and innovative solutions to address water shortage using solar energy; and the move to organise the World Water Summit during Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week- an event that saw the formation of a Global Alliance for Clean Water.

Al Zeyoudi emphasized the importance of the campaign to discourage the excessive use

of water in the UAE, which has become an alarming concern as recent reports have pegged a daily use of 360 liters per person, a figure that is more than the global rate of 200 liters per person.

The Minister also stressed on the significance of taking responsibility and joining in the move to increase awareness via

campaigns and related activities across the country. In closing, he quoted His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, who stated that water in the UAE today is more important than oil - an accurate description of the real value of water in the country today.





Al Zeyoudi stresses on new era of environmental sustainability

Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, visited the Bee'ah Waste Management Centre in Al Saj'ah, on 10th March, 2016.

The Minister was accompanied by Essa Al Hashimi, Acting Under-Secretary Assistant for Environmental Affairs, Yousef Al-Ahmad Al Raisi, Director of Waste Management, and a number of officials from the ministry.

Al Zeyoudi was received by Salim Al Owais, Chairman of Bee'ah, Riyadh Aylan, Director-General of Sharjah Municipality, Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of Bee'ah, and Fahad Shehail, Chief Development Officer, along with top officials from Sharjah Municipality and Bee'ah.

During his tour, the Minister of Climate Change and Environment was briefed on the state-of-the-art facilities of the centre, the first of its kind in the Middle East, and the cutting-edge technologies used by the company to achieve its goals of zero-waste-to-landfill.

The Minister stressed the importance of strengthening the role of federal and local authorities in jointly driving growth and striving to achieve the UAE's Vision 2021, by creating innovative initiatives and projects that pave the way for a new era of environmental sustainability. He praised the efforts made by Bee'ah and its partners to find sustainable solutions for waste collection and treatment, which contribute to the provision of

comprehensive and integrated environmental services based on innovative and environmentally friendly solutions in waste collection, sorting and recycling to serve the interest of community and keep the environment clean.

As part of the visit, Bee'ah presented the model and plans for its new headquarters, designed by the globally renowned architect, Zaha Hadid. Its innovative design, inspired by sand formations created by the wind's movement and direction, addresses advanced environmental solutions in terms of structure, work environment and visitor-staff interactivity. Fully powered by renewable energy, the building will be an icon for sustainability in the UAE.

Exhibition

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

Middle East Electricity hosts regional Power Congress



[Partner event Solar Middle East sees 57 per cent year on year increase in exhibitors and played host to raft of industry advancing products.](#)

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and the Minister of Finance and Industry of the UAE, officially opened the 41st edition of Middle East Electricity (MEE) in the presence of other VIP dignitaries, which was held from 1st to 3rd March 2016, alongside partner event Solar Middle East, at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Low oil prices have failed to dent the global power industry's confidence in the region, and the record-breaking 2016 edition of MEE validates the opportunities in

the region's power markets despite the low oil price environment.

Market research specialist Ventures Onsite estimates that the GCC will require about USD50 billion of investment in new power generating capacity to meet demand arising from demographic and economic growth. Currently, the total value of power projects in the GCC is USD247 billion.

The 41st edition of MEE occupied 65,000 sqm of exhibition space, a growth of 4,000 sqm from the 2015 edition. Apart from 81 per cent repeat business, a testament

of the show's long-standing appeal to the industry's key players, MEE 2016 also hosted 300 new-to-the-show companies.

Anita Mathews, Group Director of Informa Industrial Group, the organiser of Middle East Electricity, said: "Middle East Electricity continues to maintain its growth in spite of the challenging market conditions we are all currently facing. The exhibition has grown by 7 per cent this year compared to 2015, and exhibitor presence from countries such as Germany, Turkey, China and Saudi Arabia is on the rise."



Middle East Electricity and Solar Middle East 2016 are held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

Inaugural Power Congress

Middle East Electricity (MEE) also witnessed the launch of its inaugural Power Congress, which brought together a selection of the region's pioneering and governing minds on sustainable energy, power security and regional growth strategies.

Hosted by the UAE's Ministry of Energy, the one-day congress was made up of five high-level keynote sessions covering energy development and management throughout the Middle East.

The congress looked to address

how regional governments have been acting to redefine what is possible in urban development and what support is planned for greenfield cities such as the Expo 2020 site and numerous new residential and business communities.

UAE Minister of Energy HE Suhail Al Mazrouei delivered the opening keynote session during which he discussed new ways in which the Ministry is aiming to balance power economies with power requirements, as well as sharing his long-term vision toward sustainability in the UAE.

Product innovation pushes Solar ME to new boundaries

Hosted by the UAE Ministry of Energy, Solar Middle East, has seen its exhibitor numbers double since 2015, and is matched with a 45 per cent increase in exhibition floor space, indicative of the progress and growth of the regional solar market.

With growth comes international innovation, as well as opportunities for visitors to learn about the latest technologies, developments and trends in the solar energy industry. First time exhibitors KiloWatt Labs, who have offices



in both Dubai and New York, showcased the world's first energy server, the Centauri, which enables 24-hour power from 100% renewable energy sources.

A plug-and-play architecture that accepts multiple energy inputs from both renewable and non-renewable sources, it smartly manages distribution of these energy inputs and delivers stable and reliable electricity, 24 hours a day.

The Centauri can be deployed from kilowatts to megawatts and has a designed life of 20 years. Chip Seibert, Chairman and President at KiloWatt Labs, believes that their products can provide very high quality power anywhere, including remote

locations - an issue prevalent in the Middle East region.

"We are so pleased to be a part of Solar Middle East this year. With deep roots in the Emirates, we are proud to offer our latest series of ground breaking products, including the world's first non-chemical battery. The Sirius battery charges in less than 30 seconds, lasts for more than 1,000,000 charging cycles and can scale from small consumer applications to large utility storage solutions.

"We also released the Centauri Energy Server, an energy management system that provides very high quality power anywhere, including remote locations, in a scalable, modular

system that we are able to offer at a very affordable price. Coupled with the Sirius battery, we offer a very rugged system that will overcome any challenges this region presents."

Another first time exhibitor is Microtron Technologies, an international energy technology development company, who showcased their latest range of solar powered quick charging electric vehicles.

One of the more unusual vehicles they showcased is the 'Rick-e', a solar power electric rickshaw. Using a state-of-the-art Ultra-Capacitor hybrid battery, the Rick-e can travel 150km carrying 5 passengers off a charging time of only 16-30 seconds.



UAE focuses on reducing nation's ecological footprint

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has discussed the output of the national strategy document to reduce the ecological footprint in the UAE in the light of a document prepared by the Global Footprint Network, which aims to curb the comprehensive ecological footprint in the UAE.

This came during a meeting between Dr. Al Zeyoudi and Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, co-creator of the Ecological Footprint and CEO of the Global Footprint Network. The minister stressed that the country had remarkably reduced its ecological footprint since 2007 under the umbrella of the UAE Ecological Footprint Initiative.

He reiterated the country's commitment to global trends aimed at reducing the ecological footprint through laws, regulations, standards and practices adopted by the state, in addition to current and future projects aimed at reducing the carbon footprint.

Early last year, the Ministry of Environment and Water had reported that the UAE's ecological footprint had dropped to 7.75 hectares per person last year, down from 11.68 hectares in 2006. The ministry said the decrease was because of improved environmental sustainability, through the country's adoption of the Ecological Footprint initiative. According to the 2014 Living

Planet Report, five countries – China, the United States, India, Brazil and Russia – account for 47.2 per cent of the world's ecological footprint.

Despite UAE urban growth, which brings more carbon emissions and a greater ecological footprint, efforts to promote a greener economy and environmental policies have improved the situation.

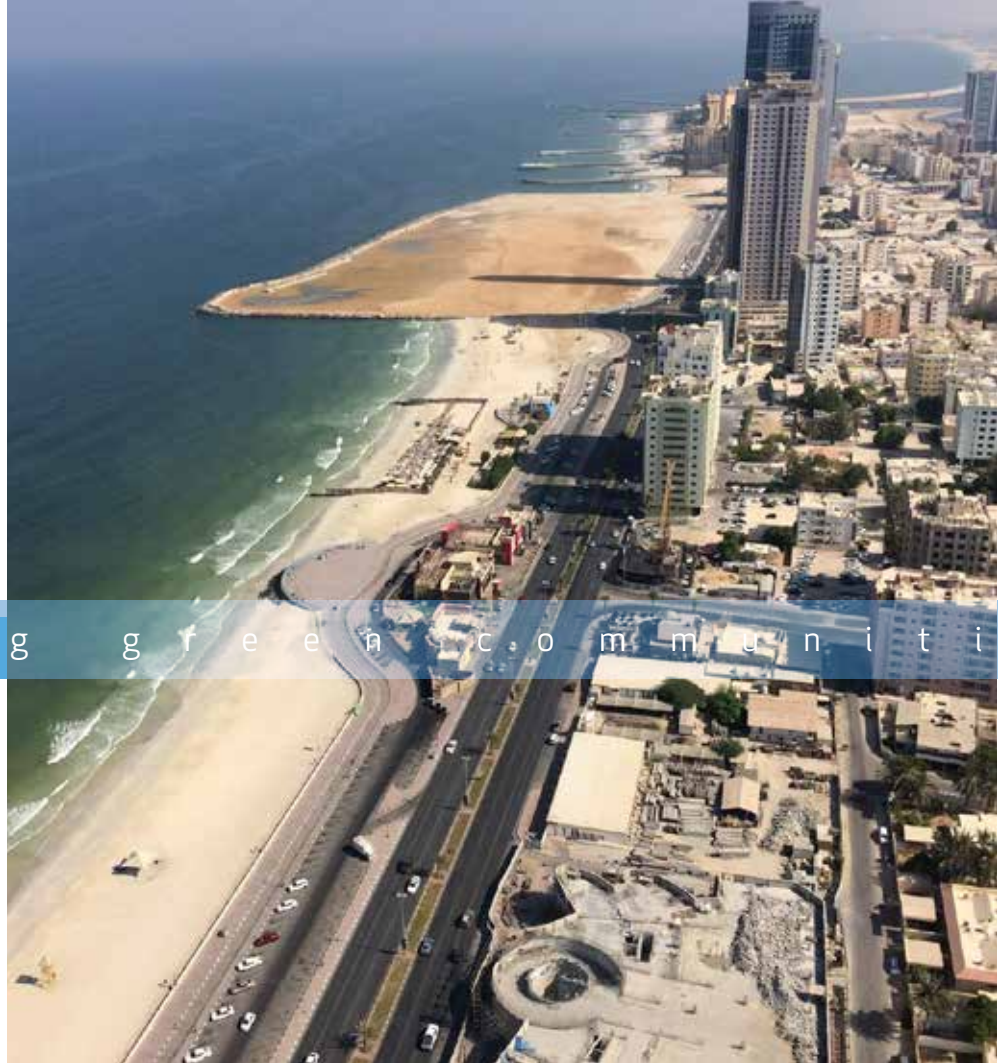
The ministry has set standards to ensure lighting product imports are energy-efficient, especially for the housing sector, which represents 57 per cent of the country's ecological footprint. The Government also aims to develop standards for fuel and cars, to reduce carbon emissions.

Conference

32

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

Ajman hosts International Environment Conference



[Minister of Climate Change and Environment underlines UAE's commitment to tackling its carbon footprint at 4th Ajman International Environment Conference.](#)

The Emirate of Ajman is fast establishing itself as a regional leader in the promotion of business and community environmental initiatives as the 4th Ajman International Environment Conference, AIEC 2016, opened on 2nd March 2016 under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman.

The importance of the event was underlined in a guest speech by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, who acknowledged that the UAE's

rapid economic development has created a negative impact on the environment.

"Over 70% of the urban areas that have contributed to our buoyant economy have also increased our consumption of energy, water and production of waste. This has, in turn, improved our awareness of sustainable social development and our environmental responsibilities in doing so. To improve our environment and natural resources we must take part in the solution and we have therefore taken steps on a national level to reduce our

carbon footprint and eliminate our negative environmental impact," he said.

The UAE faces environmental issues that could well become bigger in future. AIEC 2016 is sending a clear message, both throughout the region and globally, that Ajman and the UAE are taking these issues seriously.

The theme of the two-day conference this year was 'Smart Cities and Green Innovation', a theme that was addressed by globally-recognized academicians and captains of industry,



The Conference sessions included a number of keynote speakers from experts, innovators and thought leaders in the areas of green architecture and environmental technology and sustainability.

delivering powerful keynote addresses and dialogue on Ajman's heritage of development and best practices, urban design geared towards smart low-carbon precincts, change in the conceptualization of urban water supply systems, as well as green infrastructure.

AIEC 2016, held on 3rd and 4th March at the Sheikh Zayed Centre for Conferences and Exhibitions, Ajman University of Science and Technology, is a crucial lynchpin in promoting environmentally sustainable practices. The event included sessions on best

practices in the United Arab Emirates, with topics including 'Sustainability is Pure Profit - Hotel Point of View'.

Speaking about the significance of this year's conference theme, Khalid Mueen Al Hosani, Executive Director of the Public Health and Environment Sector, Municipality and Planning Department of Ajman, said, "We selected 'Smart Cities and Green Innovation' as a theme of the conference to demonstrate our eagerness to accelerate the adoption of effective, cutting-edge and sustainable methods that ensure

a change is made in the habits and practices to establish smart cities where environment and natural resources are conserved for a brighter tomorrow for our future generation."

The event attracted experts and professionals in environment, water and energy from all over the world. "The theme of the fourth edition of the Ajman International Environment Conference reflects nationwide efforts - across the UAE - to build a sustainable economy that can cope with population growth and urban expansion," added Hosani.

Climate Change Negotiation Forum at Zayed University focuses on research agenda



The one-day forum aims to evaluate outcomes from Paris COP21 meeting with special focus on the impact in the UAE and GCC region.

Under the patronage of Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, Minister of State for Tolerance and President of Zayed University, the Climate Change Negotiation Forum entitled 'The Road from Paris' opened on 16th March 2016 at the Zayed University Abu Dhabi campus.

Professor Reyadh AlMehaideb, Vice President of Zayed University, and a number of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the private sector, senior

administrators, faculty members, and university students attended the event.

The one-day conference was organised by Zayed University College of Sustainability and Human Sciences in collaboration with the Directorate of Energy and Climate Change at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, and the Regional Office for West Asia, ROWA.

The forum aimed to evaluate outcomes from the Paris

Conference of the Parties, COP21, meeting with special focus on their impact on the UAE and GCC region. It also served as a platform for decision makers, scientists, young researchers, and private sector representatives, who interacted and discussed the research agenda for the future.

In her address on the occasion, Sheikha Lubna said, "The rapid rate of population growth had triggered an ever-increasing demand on industrial activities which, among many other anthropogenic activities, result in an excessive release



ess for a better future tomorrow

The forum served as a platform for decision- makers, scientists, young researchers, and private sector representatives to interact and discuss the research agenda for the future.

of greenhouse gases, and in particular carbon dioxide. The level of CO2 emissions had increased from 280 parts per million (ppm), prior to the industrial revolution, to 379 ppm in 2005, reaching a current level of 400 ppm.

“These emissions are causing the world’s climate to change, leaving serious impact on our planet’s environment and the way we live. Several studies reported an increase of the average global air temperatures by 1.5 C since the early 20th century, and an increase by about 1 degree over

just the last 30 years.” She added that the COP meeting concludes repeatedly that business, as a usual scenario, is not the way to go when dealing with climate change. “This is mainly due to the fact that climate change knows no boundaries. No country can address climate change on its own. This is a challenge that needs to be dealt with globally,” she said.

Sheikha Lubna added, “COP21, for the first time, brings all nations into a common cause based on their historic, current and future responsibilities. The universal agreement’s main aim

with regard to climate change is to keep the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.”

The minister went on to emphasise that climate change issues are cross-disciplinary and trans-boundary issues and that sustained cooperation of academic institutions and stakeholders in private and public sectors is a key to release the promises of the green low carbon economy.

Conservation

36

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

New wildlife reserve opens in Sharjah



H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi opens the EPAA's Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre for endangered animals.

A new 12 square kilometer wildlife conservation centre located in the Hajjar mountains, close to the Sharjah Kalba road near the emirate's east coast, has now been opened for tourists, schools and other visitors.

Inaugurated by His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre has been established to protect endangered animal species native to the region's fragile mountain ecosystems. This

is one of the emirate's leading projects spearheaded by the Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) that aims to protect endangered animals found in the UAE's diverse mountain environment as well as the natural landscape itself.

The opening of this centre reflects Sharjah's and the EPAA's commitment to protecting animals in the UAE that are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and encouraging them to breed. The emirate is a long-time sponsor of wildlife breeding

programmes and established the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW) near Sharjah city some twenty years ago. The centre provided some 30 of the animal species to Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre.

The new conservation centre is now home to the critically endangered Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*). Once evident throughout the Hajjar mountain range, the big cat is thought to be extinct in the UAE and fewer than 200 wild leopards remain in Arabian peninsula as a whole.



Trained guides are on hand to show visitors the reserve and answer questions about Arabian wildlife.

Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre will focus on habitat preservation and restoration, education, rehabilitation, captive breeding and research. Other endangered species in the centre include the Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*) and the Arabian tahr (*Arabitragus jayakari*), which are both classified by the IUCN as 'Threatened'; and the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), which is classified as 'Near-Threatened'.

A wide variety of other Arabian animal species are housed by the outdoor enclosures, such

as the caracal (*Caracal caracal*) or desert lynx, and in the indoor wildlife centre, such as snakes, lizards, hedgehogs, fish species and scorpions. The centre also has a nocturnal wildlife exhibit to showcase the nighttime activities of desert creatures.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, HH Sheikh Sultan was given a tour of the centre to learn more about its various sections and services, observe the animals in their new habitat, and admire the early artistic representations of the region's animal population, otherwise known as petroglyphs,

engraved on the surface of the surrounding Hajar mountains.

On the side-lines of the opening, guests also had the opportunity to visit the centre's colourful art gallery that portrays the lives of the endangered mountain animals through different mediums. The exhibit lends visitors insight into the value of the centre's goals to help near-extinct species in the UAE.

Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre is currently open to the public on weekdays, except Mondays, from 9am to 6.30pm.

Renewable Energy

38

creating green community

‘New and renewable energy initiatives are essential for attracting foreign capital to UAE’



[According to Bloomberg, 2015 was the year of the installation of renewable energy capacity in the world, where both wind and solar PV saw around 30% more capacity installed worldwide.](#)

Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, UAE Minister of Economy, has hailed the UAE, as a safe and sought-after investment magnet, due to its security and safety elements and political stability, in the midst of the region's political and economic tensions. He further said that the UAE's advanced infrastructure and strong legislative system has boosted its position as a unique destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Al Mansouri pointed out that the Ministry aims to increase the contribution of FDI to 5% of

the country's GDP over the next five years, in line with the goals of the National Agenda of UAE Vision 2021. He said that new and renewable energy sectors were key to attracting foreign capital to the UAE in the coming period, due to the giant projects implemented by the UAE Government, mainly in renewable energy and retail.

Al Mansouri explained that the UAE realised the need to diversify its economy with less reliance on oil sector. Many years ago, the UAE began to lay the foundations of a strong and competitive business environment, while

sealing a number of trade cooperation agreements, taking advantage of its geographical location which links it to more than 220 markets around the world. He revealed that the ministry is currently working on an FDI law which would regulate guarantees, incentives, and clarify institutional framework.

He pointed out that the accumulated foreign investment in the country had increased by the end of 2015 to USD 126 billion, compared to USD 115 billion at the end of 2014, supported mainly by increased



With the decline in oil prices in global markets and reduced spending by international oil companies, investment in renewable and clean energy sectors is on the rise.

investments in manufacturing and heavy industries, such as aluminum and petrochemicals, as well as other sectors like tourism and aviation. The increased FDI resulted in taking the UAE to No. 1 rank regionally and 22nd globally in the World Investment Report 2015.

Stressing the importance of Annual Investment Meeting, he said it serves as a unique platform to promote investment in various priority sectors, as well as provide a direct meeting point for government delegations, and competent institutions, because

it is attended by many dignitaries, officials and delegations from several countries. The event presents an ideal platform for fostering partnerships in public and private sectors.

Dawood Al Shezawi, Head of AIM organising committee, said that despite the significant decline in oil prices globally, which is a challenge for oil production companies, it represented a great opportunity for many companies, due to the lower costs of raw materials and the increase in demand for products leading to higher profitability margins.

Decline in oil prices was good news for the world's most oil importing countries, mainly India, China and European countries. Also, the US refineries benefited from this decline, while the drop was a big challenge for the countries producing and exporting oil.

Al Shezawi added that the theme of the 6th Annual Investment Meeting is "The New World of FDI, Key Features and Best Practices". The event will help companies to understand the dynamics of world markets in light of the significant decline in oil prices. It will also



help investors understand how to take advantage of this downturn, and help to develop well-defined investment strategies.

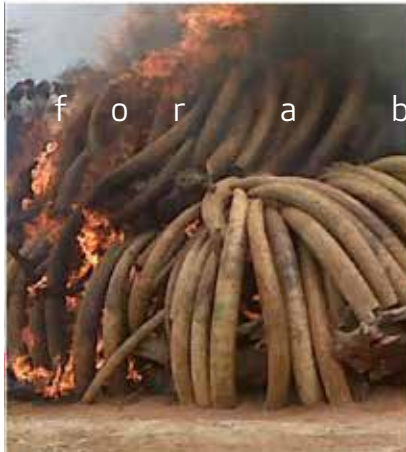
With the decline in oil prices in global markets and reduced spending by international oil companies, investment in renewable and clean energy sectors is on the rise. According to Bloomberg, 2015 was the year of the installation of renewable energy capacity in the world, where both wind and solar PV saw around 30% more capacity installed worldwide. The wind total for last year is likely to end up at around 64GW, followed by solar at 57GW. Clean energy investment surged in China, Africa, the US, Latin America and India in 2015, driving the world total to its

highest figure of \$328.9bn, up 4% from 2014 revised \$315.9bn and beating the previous record set in 2011 by 3%.

The latest figures from Bloomberg New Energy Finance show dollar investment globally growing in 2015 to nearly six times over 2004 total and a new record of one third of a trillion dollars, despite four factors that might have been

expected to restrain it: further declines in the cost of solar photovoltaics (allowing more capacity to be installed for the same price); strength of the US currency (reducing the dollar value of non-dollar investment); continued weakness of the European economy, formerly the powerhouse of renewable energy investment; and perhaps, most significantly, the plunge in fossil fuel commodity prices.





“The future of wildlife is in our hands”

On the occasion of World Wildlife Day, celebrated annually on 3rd March, Dr. Nasser Lakhrebani Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Emirates Animal Welfare Society, EAW, participated in a special event held at the Emirates Park Zoo.

Held under the theme “The future of wildlife is in our hands”, with African and Asian elephants being the main focus of global campaigns, World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people. At the same time, the Day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which

has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Wildlife has an intrinsic value and contributes to the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of sustainable development and human well-being.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Al Nuaimi stressed that World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate and promote the beautiful, multiple and diverse types of wild animals and plants. It is also the opportunity to highlight the great importance of protecting nature and increasing human awareness of this issue's importance. Finally, it is the opportunity to end the abuse that

some people carry out against these creatures, which negatively impacts the environment, economy and society.

He urged the public to treat animals in a humane and gentle way. He also encouraged them to join voluntary activities related to animal protection, and raise public awareness of society's role in maintaining an ecological balance, which guarantees the continuity of life.

A voluntary association concerned with the consolidation of animal rights in the country, Emirates Animal Welfare Society defends, defines and raises awareness of the importance of animal welfare and promotes the preservation of environmental safety and animal wealth.

UAE to grow food and fuel in desert using seawater



Operations are currently underway in Abu Dhabi at the world's first facility that is growing both food and fuel in a desert ecosystem.

The world's first research facility to grow both food and fuel, using desert lands irrigated by seawater, began operations on 6th March 2016 on a 2-hectare site in Masdar City in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The facility, operated by Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, is funded by the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium (SBRC), a group advancing the aviation industry's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions by developing a clean, sustainable and alternative fuel supply.

"Research and innovation underpin the UAE's ability to overcome environmental and social challenges, such as food and water security, while protecting our ecosystems, from our coastlines to our deserts," Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said. "This project will not only sustainably produce bioenergy, but also offer a pathway to grow our aquaculture industry, which supports food independence."

Today, the UAE imports roughly 90 percent of its food – at a

cost, that if left unchecked, is predicted to increase 300 percent over the next decade. But the challenge of food security is also an unprecedented opportunity to advance ideas and innovations that are both sustainable and economically viable. The Masdar Institute, along with its partners, is doing just that.

"Energy, water and food security are key, interlinked needs for the UAE. Masdar Institute is committed to supporting the country's strategic goals, and we are proud to be operating this research facility, which not only



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

More than 2,000 commercial flights have used sustainable aviation biofuel blended with conventional petroleum since renewable jet fuel was approved for commercial use in 2011.

develops sustainable bioenergy and food to help fuel and diversify the UAE economy, but also serves as a training ground for a new generation of innovators,” said Dr. Behjat Al Yousuf, interim provost of Masdar Institute, a graduate research-based university in Abu Dhabi, and a founding member of the SBRC.

“This project reinforces Masdar City’s burgeoning ecosystem of innovation and strengthens its collaborative links between industry, academia and government,” said Dr. Al Yousuf. “The cutting-edge bioenergy

facility also provides an example of how collaboration produces real and valuable outcomes, and will thus inspire and attract further research to Abu Dhabi.”

Aquaculture – industrial fish or shellfish farming – is one of the world’s fastest expanding food sectors, with a current growth rate of about 6 percent a year. While aquaculture systems can reduce a nation’s dependence on foreign food and improve security, they pose environmental challenges due to the impact of nutrient-rich effluents flowing into the ocean. The SBRC tackles

these concerns and is seeking to minimize the footprint of commercial farming practices.

“Aquaculture systems are here to stay,” said Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons, professor of environmental science at the University of Arizona and a globally recognized expert on aquaculture systems. “As the planet’s population approaches 9 billion people, we must advance technologies that enable sustainable and manageable food production. The innovative facility in Abu Dhabi is a showcase of how cross-sector cooperation can lead to



breakthrough research with the potential to deliver both food and aviation fuel – and do so in a sustainable, scalable way.”

The research facility uses coastal seawater to raise fish and shrimp for food, whose nutrient-rich wastewater then fertilizes plants rich in oils that can be harvested for aviation biofuel production. The salt-tolerant halophyte plants – whose commercial potential is relatively unexplored – thrive in arid, desert conditions and don’t require fresh water or arable land to grow.

In the last step of the system, wastewater is diverted into a cultivated mangrove forest, further removing nutrients and providing valuable carbon

storage, before the naturally filtered and treated effluent is discharged back into the sea.

“As the global community moves toward global targets to reduce emissions, aviation too is doing its part and making great progress. Sustainable aviation biofuel is poised to play an important role in meeting the aggressive emission reduction goals industry has set,” said Marc Allen, president, Boeing International.

“We’re proud to be a part of the Abu Dhabi consortium establishing this new biofuel research facility. It shows real promise to transform coastal deserts into productive farmland supporting food security and cleaner skies.”

Masdar Institute, together with Etihad Airways, Boeing and Honeywell UOP, were the founding members of the SBRC. Takreer, the Abu Dhabi oil refining company, along with Safran and GE Aviation, have since joined the research group.



The research facility uses coastal seawater to raise fish and shrimp for food, whose nutrient-rich wastewater then fertilizes plants rich in oils that can be harvested for aviation biofuel production.



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

“The refinement and production of sustainable aviation biofuels complements our endeavors to meet the rapidly growing demand for jet fuels in the UAE. Under the guidance of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), we are geared up to provide research and technological assistance to this ambitious project,” Jasem Al Sayegh, CEO of Takreer, said.

More than 2,000 commercial flights have used sustainable aviation biofuel blended with conventional petroleum since renewable jet fuel was approved for commercial use in 2011.

“This breakthrough research places the UAE at the center of a global movement to advance

technology that supports the sustainable production of food and bioenergy,” said James Hogan, Etihad Airways’ president and chief executive officer.

The commercialization of aviation fuels – cleaner, superior-performing fuels – is a critical step toward balancing our industry’s dependency on fossil fuels, while also incubating innovation that may have profound global implications to address energy, water and food security.”

The goal of the research facility is to demonstrate the viability of an integrated bioenergy production system with respect to essential food and fuel production, suitable land use,

reduced carbon emissions and wastewater clean-up. If the technology proves viable at this smaller-scale, further expansion will continue with the ultimate ambition to scale up to a 200-hectare demonstration site.





Going green with Sheraton

The Sheraton Dubai, Mall of the Emirates hotel is celebrating a year of success in sustainable practice

Over the last two years, Sheraton Dubai, Mall of the Emirates has been care-fully monitoring energy consumption and implementing cutting-edge technology and programs across all departments of the hotel, resulting in 5% reduction in electricity consumption, 17.5% reduction in water consumption, and 50% reduction in excess waste.

Sheraton is renowned for being one of the eco-friendliest hotel brands in the Middle East. Sheraton Dubai, Mall of the Emirates Hotel shares the same dedication to sustainability, and participates in several of Dubai's green initiatives such as 'Clean up the World' that ensures public beaches are clean, unpolluted and

safe, amongst other activities. To further support the city's green efforts, the hotel inspires environmental-consciousness with an acclaimed practice of "Choose Your Fish Wisely", a proactive measure taken to include locally sourced, organic and sustainable seafood and ingredients. The practice is applied to all offerings including restaurants, banquets, catering, and in-room dining.

Under the Make A Green Choice (MAGC) initiative, guests at the hotel are invited to forego certain housekeeping services in a bid to save energy, which includes consumption of water, electricity, natural gas and chemicals. In turn, environmentally responsible guests are rewarded by the hotel

with points or vouchers to use at participating outlets in other Starwood properties.

Commenting on the sustainable practices at the property, Sheraton Dubai Mall of the Emirates Hotel GM Paul Dunphy said: "Green practices are of the utmost importance and we have a corporate responsibility to protect the environment.

"Having founded and led a number of projects on the environmental committee in London, I am now working with the Sheraton associate led Green Council, to ensure our ongoing commitment to environmental practices. Our energy saving measures have been a great success and we aim to continue with these efforts."



Ramada Ajman unveils new RO plant, aims annual savings of AED290,000

Coinciding with the observance of World Water Day, Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman unveiled an all-new Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant, which aims to recycle the hotel's waste water by 60 percent and target an annual savings of about AED 290,000/ (USD79,019/).

The hotel's daily water supply is 67,000 gallons; 17,000 gallons go to waste due to high level of TDS (Total Dissolved Solid). The hotel operations require at least 60,000 gallons of water per day, thus generating a supply deficit.

Through the new RO plant, approximately 10,000 gallons of waste water will be filtered and treated to bring down the TDS level and make the water suitable

for use in the hotel's gardens and urban farm.

Iftikhar Hamdani, General Manager, Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman, commented: "This new RO plant will save us a huge amount of money as we have to spend almost AED800/ per day to meet the daily water needs, on top of the supply which we receive from FEWA. Apart from the monetary benefit, this initiative entails impact on the precious use of water. We should always think ahead as we might wake up one day without clean water because of our inability to take actions at an early stage."

Ramada Hotel and Suites Ajman's new Reverse Osmosis Plant is supplied by Al Waha Water

Treatment Equipment in Ajman. Mohammed Abdel Raouf, General Manager of Al Waha, noted: "We are honoured to be of service to Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman. The hotel has been a notable pioneer of environmental initiatives and we hope this new partnership will aid them in boosting their efforts and encouraging the community towards the green path."



Partnership

48

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

UAE and Australia to work together on blue carbon partnership



A world leader in blue carbon research, the UAE is rich in coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and salt marshes which are said to be even more effective than traditional forests in sequestering carbon.

The Australian Government and the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to work closely to advance blue carbon science and policy through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, after the World Government Summit in Dubai in early February.

The Partnership is a consortium of governments, non-profits, and intergovernmental agencies who will equip policy-makers with actionable information and knowledge of coastal blue carbon ecosystems for climate change mitigation.

Blue carbon, which is carbon stored in marine and coastal habitats, could play a significant role in reducing emissions while also supporting biodiversity conservation, fisheries habitat protection, and disaster risk reduction.

A world leader in blue carbon research, the UAE is rich in coastal ecosystems. There are about 14,000 hectares of mangroves, extensive salt marshes and seagrass meadows supporting globally significant populations of dugongs. The UAE's blue carbon research has been led by the Abu

Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) with support from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and in partnership at the National level with the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change & Environment.

A report by AEGDI, The National Blue Carbon Decision-Maker Summary, suggests that coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and salt marshes can be even more effective than traditional forests in sequestering carbon. H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, EAD's Secretary General said the Agency, through AGEDI,



There are about 14,000 hectares of mangroves, extensive salt marshes and seagrass meadows supporting globally significant populations of dugongs in the UAE.

is delighted to partner with the Australia Government on such a pivotal international effort for natural climate change mitigation.

“Similar to Australia, the UAE’s coastal ecosystems play an important role in the preservation of our natural capital and we look forward to a strong collaboration with the Australian government and the other partners,” said H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak.

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, said he was pleased the UAE would be sharing its expertise in the Partnership.

Australia has large reserves of mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass meadows.

“Australia’s coastal wetlands are estimated to be storing about 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon,” said Minister Hunt.

The Partnership will look at continuing the efforts of:

- measuring coastal blue carbon ecosystems and their capacity to absorb carbon emissions;
- developing innovative approaches to protect and enhance coastal blue carbon ecosystems;

- researching and supporting blue carbon measurement and management;
- building capacity and transferring knowledge across countries;
- mobilising funds from the private sector to support coastal blue carbon ecosystem management and mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund.



MoU to enhance cooperation on addressing environmental issues



DEWA has signed an MoU with EWS-WWF, a biodiversity body, to enhance cooperation on issues related to pressing environmental concerns.

Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Emirates Wildlife Society in association with the World Wide Fund for Nature (EWS-WWF).

The MoU, signed on 25th March 2016, enhances cooperation on issues related to climate change and energy, the annual Earth Hour campaign, biodiversity conservation, ecological footprint, and capacity-building programmes and awareness.

The MoU also explores

opportunities to jointly develop campaigns, activities, and technical studies to achieve mutual objectives. The MoU was signed by Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA and Ida Tillisch, Director General of EWS-WWF.

Al Tayer commended EWS-WWF for its efforts in biodiversity conservation in key sites across the UAE, and for actively raising awareness about ecological footprints, and its contribution to policy and institutional frameworks to address environmental issues. Tillisch thanked DEWA for its efficient

and reliable world-class services to customers and society, and its role in spreading awareness on the sensible use of electricity and water to protect the environment and natural resources.

“DEWA encourages all initiatives that support its vision to become a sustainable innovative world-class utility, and its strategy to promote environmental awareness, protect natural resources, and reduce the carbon footprint. We are pleased to work with EWS-WWF to enhance our joint efforts to focus on the importance of rational use of electricity and water and the



The MoU was signed by Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA and Ida Tillisch, Director General of EWS-WWF.

need to protect the environment, to create a sustainable future for us and generations to come. DEWA seeks to enhance relations with its partners and stakeholders to achieve its strategic goals, and promote Dubai's position as a global hub for trade, finance, tourism, green economy, and sustainability," said Al Tayer.

"This MoU paves the way for closer collaboration between DEWA and EWS-WWF. It provides both organisations with a unique opportunity to join forces and work on science-based solutions to tackle climate change and protect

marine biodiversity. As such, we look forward to strengthening our partnership with DEWA and driving positive change to conserve our natural environment in the UAE," said Tillisch.

"DEWA is committed to encouraging activities and initiatives that focus on building capacity, reducing the carbon footprint, protecting ecological diversity, and promoting people's happiness and comfort in a healthy environment that is ideal to live, work, and visit. These efforts contribute to achieving the Dubai Plan 2021 to transform Dubai into

a smart city, whose environmental elements are clean, healthy and sustainable," said Waleed Salman, Executive Vice President for Strategy and Business Development at DEWA.



Conservation

52

creating green communities

25 Scimitar Horned Oryx successfully reintroduced in Chad



The scimitar-horned oryx, native to central and northern Africa, has been extinct in the wild for more than 15 years due to unregulated hunting, loss of habitat and lack of resources.

Twenty five Scimitar Horned Oryx (SHO) have arrived safely to their natural habitat in Chad as part of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Government of Chad reintroduction programme.

This initiative aims to create a healthy and viable population of up to 500 Scimitar Horned Oryx in an isolated natural reserve within the Oadi Rime-Oadi Achim Game Reserve in Chad, which extends over an area of 77,950 square kilometers.

The first shipment of Oryx, will

be held in a large fenced area to acclimatize prior to being released into the wild after the commencement of the rainy season when pasture is at its most abundant (summer 2016).

Initially every single Oryx released will be fitted with a satellite collar. Data from these collars will be monitored by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Washington D.C. This data will be used to track and help protect individuals and also to gather behavioral data on the species, which in turn can aid further species reintroduction efforts.

EAD has also trained a team of wildlife experts and rangers on the ground in the reserve to monitor the Oryx and conduct community outreach programmes to ensure their continued protection.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of EAD said, "Inspired by the late Sheikh Zayed's legacy and efforts to protect endangered species and sustain them in their natural habitat, the Scimitar Horned Oryx Reintroduction Programme was initiated on behalf of the government of Abu Dhabi in close collaboration with the Government



The oryx will each be fitted with a satellite collar that will be used to track and help protect the animals.

of Chad. This is possibly the world's most ambitious large mammal reintroduction programme and a huge step in the field of conservation."

"This project is a reminder that species conservation not only crosses boundaries in its global nature, but it unites peoples and humanity. Today and under the guidance of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ruler's representative in the Western Region and chairman of EAD, the first of a genetically strong herd of Scimitar Horned Oryx is transferred to Chad. In this transfer, we share

the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed and unite the aspirations and hopes of the people of the UAE, Chad and the international community in bringing back a magnificent species from the grips of extinction" she added.

Al Mubarak also noted that "In an effort to ensure maximum diversity and quality of stock for reintroduction, EAD is establishing a "World Herd" of Scimitar Horned Oryx in Abu Dhabi at the Deleijah Breeding and Conservation Centre. This includes the original collection of the late Sheikh Zayed and selection of a variety of Oryx

from 16 institutions from several European countries, the United States, and the UAE where EAD is carefully managing the herd, working on breeding the species to enhance and strengthen the gene pool for eventual release into its distribution range in protected areas around the world of which Chad would be the first destination."

Dr. Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director, Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD said, in preparation for the Oryx release, EAD's terrestrial biodiversity team have conducted



several visits to the reserve in Chad to assess the release area's physical space and study the available natural habitat, ensuring the abundance of food and shade, in addition to determining the specific logistics of the translocation from Abu Dhabi to the reserve."

"Our veterinary team conducted genetic testing of approximately 500 Scimitar Horned Oryx located at EAD's wildlife management facilities. This herd are the core of the reintroduction programme in the Republic of Chad. EAD also worked on constructing and equipping acclimation enclosures, staff residences, as well as recruiting an appropriate workforce, and securing supplies and materials

required for the project", Dr. Al Dhaheri said.

In 2015, EAD received 42 Scimitar Horned Oryx from the United States, originating from six different facilities including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and private collections. Fourteen Scimitar Horned Oryx have recently been added to the collection.

"As part of this programme, EAD and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland conducted genetic studies and computer modelling to determine the number of individuals and the genetic diversity of the population required to give the best chance to not only survive but proliferate in the wild," he said. "Our target is

to achieve 500 individuals in the wild, which is deemed sufficient to create a viable population."

The Scimitar Horned Oryx has been classified as "Extinct in the Wild" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. At present the Scimitar Horned Oryx can only be found in captivity. They are adapted to high temperatures, harsh environments and can live for a long periods without drinking water.

The Scimitar Horned Oryx was native to the Sahelian areas of Central Africa. Following extensive research, the Oadi Rime-Oadi Achim Game Reserve was deemed to be the optimal habitat for the Oryx re-introduction.



'Arab region most affected by climate change'

Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan, the Speaker of the Arab Parliament, has said the parliament remains focused on the protection of the environment, which is part of its sustainable development agenda, in a bid to address the climate change that threatens the entire planet, in general, and the Arab region, in particular.

Speaking at the Bahrain International Conference on Environmental Protection, Al Jarwan said, "The Arab region is one of the regions most affected by the climate change. This makes it imperative to work harder to avert the adverse effects brought on by the climate change through the introduction of alternative energy." He cited the effects of

climate change in the Arab region, including drought, desertification and its impact on food and water security, as well as damage to the economic and social achievements.

Al Jarwan stressed the need to adopt and implement procedures and long-term strategic development plans to address the climate change, protect the environment and consolidate the principles of sustainable development, in line with the priorities of Arab countries, and to achieve sustainable development goals for 2030.

He further explained that the means of implementation of environmentally-friendly projects require financial support, not from

international funding, but also all sectors in each Arab country must take steps to achieve the sustainable development. Al Jarwan pointed out that Arab economic integration "is an opportunity for Arab countries to increase inter-Arab trade through free trade, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers."

The Arab Parliament speaker also called for sustainable investment in technological projects and scientific research so as to benefit from numerous capabilities and potentials within the Arab countries. Further, he pointed out the need for the Arab League to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and protection of the environment.

Hybrid

56

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

Powering the future



With the launch of The Mirai by Toyota, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles could change mobility forever.

Around the world, as efforts are being made to harness the power of hydrogen - the most abundant element in the universe - Toyota is actively developing and producing fuel cell vehicles (FCV) as it has recognized hydrogen's vast potential as a clean energy source.

The move echoes Toyota's big bet two decades ago on petrol-electric hybrids. The company launched the Prius in 1997 and has now sold 8m vehicles worldwide, turning it into a leading green-car company.

Mirai - meaning "future" in

Japanese - is Toyota's fuel-cell vehicle, a hybrid car powered by two tanks of high-pressure hydrogen and an electric motor.

Fuel-cell vehicles are seen by many as the ultimate green car technology. They use a device, called a stack, to combine hydrogen and oxygen from the air. The process creates a flow of current that can run the same electric motors used for a battery car. The only exhaust gas is water vapor.

Since hydrogen can be produced from a wide range of primary

energy sources, unlike fossil fuels, there is no need to worry about resources becoming depleted, meaning that a stable supply can be relied on.

Using hydrogen - an important future energy source - to generate electricity, the Mirai achieves superior environmental performance with the convenience and driving pleasure expected of any car. The Mirai uses the Toyota Fuel Cell System (TFCS), which features both fuel cell technology and hybrid technology, and includes Toyota's new proprietary FC Stack and high-pressure



The Toyota Mirai has a range of up to 300 miles and can be refueled in about three minutes.

hydrogen tanks. The TFCS is more energy efficient than internal combustion engines and emits no CO₂ or pollutants when driven. Drivers can also expect the same level of convenience as offered by gasoline engine vehicles, with a generous cruising range and a hydrogen refuelling time of about three minutes.

The Mirai delivers everything expected from a next-generation car: an immediately recognisable design; driving exhilaration stemming from superior handling stability achieved by a low centre of gravity; and quiet but powerful

acceleration provided by the electric motor.

Superior environmental performance

The Mirai features the TFCS, a fusion of fuel cell technology with hybrid technology. The system uses Toyota-developed components including the Toyota FC Stack, FC boost converter, and high-pressure hydrogen tanks.

Toyota FC Stack

The new Toyota FC Stack achieves a maximum output of 114 kW (155 DIN hp) and a world-leading power output density of 3.1 kW/L

(2.2 times higher than that of the previous Toyota FCHV-adv limited-lease model).

FC Boost Converter

A new compact, high-efficiency, high-capacity converter has been developed to boost power generated in the Toyota FC Stack to 650 volts.

Increasing the voltage has made it possible to reduce the size of the electric motor and the number of Toyota FC Stack fuel cells, leading to a smaller, higher-performance Toyota Fuel Cell System, thereby reducing system costs.



High-pressure Hydrogen Tanks

Tanks with a three-layer structure made of carbon fibre-reinforced plastic and other materials are used to store hydrogen at a very high pressure of 70 MPa (70 megapascals, or approximately 700 bar). Compared to the high-pressure hydrogen tanks used in the Toyota FCHV-adv model, tank storage has been increased by approximately 20 percent.

Superior handling stability and quietness

The high output Toyota FC Stack and optimal battery power control drive the electric motor and ensure powerful responsiveness at all vehicle speeds. This provides an immediate increase in torque at the first press of the accelerator, and powerful and

smooth acceleration thereafter. Handling stability and ride comfort are both improved through the location of major parts such as the Toyota FC Stack and high pressure hydrogen tanks centrally under the floor to achieve a low centre of gravity and superior front-and-rear weight distribution, as well as the use of a high-rigidity body, which features enhanced rigidity around the rear suspension.

Toyota Motor Co. wants to virtually eliminate gasoline-powered vehicles from its fleet by 2050, and is betting that hydrogen cars, rather than electric vehicles, will be the long-term answer. The Japanese maker seeks to touch the sales target of 30,000 annually by 2020 and even

higher in the years beyond.

A number of other automakers are now experimenting with hydrogen power; Hyundai already offers a fuel-cell version of its Tucson SUV, and Honda will launch a retail model next year.





Dubai Supreme Council of Energy reviews district cooling regulation

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy has chaired the 39th meeting of the council at its headquarters. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Supreme Council of Energy, attended the meeting in addition to other members of the board.

“In support of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, launched by Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to transform Dubai into an international hub for clean energy and green economy, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy is working towards the implementation of the energy Demand Side

Management Strategy, which features nine programmes that contribute to the sustainable development of Dubai.

These include the rules and regulations for green buildings, the rehabilitation of existing buildings, district cooling, regulations and standards for energy efficiency, re-use of wastewater for use in irrigation and technology to raise the efficiency of street lighting, and the Shams Dubai Initiative to transform Dubai into the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world,” said Al Tayer.

“During the meeting, we developed a strategy to organise Dubai’s district-cooling sector. This aims to improve the performance

of operations, and enhance the amount of investments in this promising market from 20 percent to 40 percent by 2030,” added Al Tayer.

The meeting highlighted Dubai’s Energy Intensity Mapping project, which focuses on making use of Dubai’s building and energy consumption data to find methods of analysing consumption levels, limiting Dubai’s overall energy consumption, and finding solutions to limit high consumption. The meeting also addressed the implementation of detailed studies to save water through the re-use of water for irrigation, as well as defining potential opportunities, and developing an integrated strategy for Dubai’s water supply.

World Water Day

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

‘Three in four jobs in the global workforce depend on water’



The 2016 UN World Water Development Report released on the occasion of World Water Day says three out of four jobs worldwide are water-dependent.

An estimated three out of four jobs that make up the global workforce are either heavily or moderately dependent on water. This means that water shortages and problems of access to water and sanitation could limit economic growth and job creation in the coming decades, according to a UN report released on World Water Day.

From its collection, through various uses, to its ultimate return to the natural environment, water is a key factor in the development of job opportunities either directly related to its management (supply,

infrastructure, wastewater treatment, etc.) or in economic sectors that are heavily water-dependent such as agriculture, fishing, power, industry and health. Furthermore, good access to drinking water and sanitation promotes an educated and healthy workforce, which constitutes an essential factor for sustained economic growth.

In its analysis of the economic impact of access to water, the report cites numerous studies that show a positive correlation between investments in the water sector and economic growth. It

also highlights the key role of water in the transition to a green economy.

The 2016 Report will provide the content and basis for debate throughout the year on the global theme, ‘Water and Jobs’ of this year’s World Water Day. The report illustrates that as nearly 3 out of 4 jobs of the global workforce (3.2 billion people) are moderately or highly dependent upon access to water and water-related services, “Water is essential to decent jobs and sustainable development”. Water stress and the lack of decent work can exacerbate



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

The 2016 Report will provide the content and basis for debate throughout the year on the global theme, 'Water and Jobs' of this year's World Water Day.

security challenges, force migration and undo the progress made in the fight to eradicate poverty.

In a separate report released on 21st March, the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) International Resource Panel found that without altering current levels of water consumption and pollution, almost half of the world's population will suffer severe water stress by 2030.

Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner, said: "Reliable access to clean water is a cornerstone

of sustainable development. When clean water is consistently unavailable, the world's poorest must spend much of their disposable income buying it, or a large amount of time transporting it, which limits development.

"And since only half of one per cent of the world's freshwater is available for the needs of both humanity and ecosystems, we will need to do more and better with less if we are to ensure healthy ecosystems, healthy populations and economic development."

UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-

moon, said in his statement for the Day: "Almost half of all workers - 1.5 billion people - work in water-related sectors, and nearly all jobs depend on the availability of freshwater. Despite its paramount importance, water as a sector generally does not receive the attention it deserves. Water is central to human survival, the environment and the economy.

"All workers can be harmed by poor water and sanitation. Of two million work-related deaths every year, nearly one-in-five are caused by poor quality drinking water and inadequate sanitation."



Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, said: "Water and jobs are inextricably linked on various levels, whether we look at them from an economic, environmental or social perspective.

"This edition of the World Water Development Report breaks new ground by addressing the pervasive relationship between water and jobs to an extent not yet seen in any other report."

Director-General of the International Labour Organization and Chair of UN-Water, Guy Ryder, said: "This analysis highlights the fact that water is work - it requires workers for its safe management and at the same time it can create work and improve conditions. If the

2030 Agenda is to be a success and we are to build together a sustainable future, we must ensure that work in water is decent and that the water we all rely on is safe."

From its extraction to its return to the environment, via numerous uses, water is a key factor in jobs creation.

"Estimating the relationship of water with economic growth and jobs is particularly challenging," the report states, emphasizing the lack of data, particularly in regards to determining the degree of water dependency of jobs. Nevertheless, the report notes a number of studies that have found correlations between water related investments and

economic growth. Investment in small-scale projects providing access to safe water and basic sanitation in Africa could offer an estimated economic return of US\$ 28.4 billion a year, or nearly five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) of the continent.

Such investments also seem to have a beneficial effect on employment. In the United States, every US\$ 1 million invested in the country's traditional water supply and treatment infrastructure generates between 10 and 20 additional jobs.

Another study in Latin America found that investing US\$ 1 billion in expanding the water supply and sanitation network would directly result in creating 100,000 jobs.



RAK Properties gears up for major eco-initiatives

RAK Properties PJSC, Ras Al Khaimah's biggest property developer listed on the Abu Dhabi Stock Exchange, is committed to eco-initiatives activities as part of its environmental protection efforts. The developer has coordinated with the Waste Management Authority of Ras Al Khaimah's Public Works and Services Department and provided access to a mangrove forest within its Mina Al Arab waterfront development for cleanup.

Each year, local authorities organize a beach cleanup campaign with the support of the community, businesses and schools. Last month, RAK Properties, one of the campaign's regular supporters,

accommodated a volunteer group of high school students from Ras Al Khaimah Academy who collected marine debris along the coastline adjacent to Mina Al Arab. Special resource speakers from the Environment Protection & Development Authority discussed the importance of beach clean-up activities.

RAK Properties had also switched off non-essential lights at all of its projects in celebration of this year's Earth Hour. These initiatives are in line with RAK Properties' full commitment to the preservation and protection of the environment and natural resources.

Mohammad Sultan Al Qadi, Managing Director and CEO, RAK

Properties, said: "Ras Al Khaimah's rich and diverse ecosystem comprises various marine, desert, land and mountainous elements. The government's development strategy focuses on accelerating modernization without neglecting the preservation of our environmental heritage and has taken the necessary steps to ensure that future generations enjoy these natural resources.

"RAK Properties recognizes the vital role we can play in protecting and preserving the environment. Our active participation in various local initiatives enables us to support local sustainability and encourage the community to realize the significance of appreciating, preserving and protecting natural wealth."

Campaign

64

creating green communities

On World Wildlife Day, UN implores urgent action to end poaching crisis

The future of wildlife
is in our hands



Levels of elephant poaching in Africa remain alarmingly high, says CITES, as UN announces a Global Coalition campaign to end the illegal trade in wildlife.

As the world marked the third World Wildlife Day on 3rd March under the theme “The future of wildlife is in our hands”, the United Nations announced plans for a Global Coalition campaign to end the illegal trade in wildlife.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on UN agencies, CITES and partners to provide a coordinated response to wildlife crime and spread the message that there should be zero tolerance for poaching. “Time is running out to save some of the world’s most iconic species,” he said. “Much more

needs to be done by key actors on all continents and across sectors to combat poaching and address both the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.”

Driven by growing demand for illegally sourced wildlife products, the illicit trade has in recent years escalated into a global environmental crisis, pushing several species to the brink of extinction.

It is estimated that rhino poaching in South Africa has increased by as much as 8,000 per cent between 2007 and 2014.

The pangolin, also known as the scaly anteater, is considered to be the most trafficked mammal on earth, with over a million animals taken from the wild in the past decade.

Trade in live great apes, such as chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans, is also of concern, especially as for every live animal illegally taken from the wild there are many more killed during capture and transport.

The global effort to end illegal trade in wildlife received a boost last year, as the UN General



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

World Wildlife Day is both an opportunity to celebrate wildlife biodiversity and a strong reminder that the illegal trade in wildlife is devastating iconic species.

Assembly adopted a resolution urging member states to classify illicit trafficking in wildlife as a serious criminal offence. This year, the UN calls for strong political commitments to be put into action through collective efforts of governments and citizens around the world.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has made substantial progress to combat illegal trade in ivory through the preparation, implementation and review of National Ivory Action Plans by 19

key countries affected by the illicit trade.

In May 2015, the cross-continent Operation Cobra III brought together enforcement agencies from range, transit and destination countries, resulting in 139 arrests and more than 247 seizures, which included elephant ivory, medicinal plants, rhino horns, pangolins and many more.

But more remains to be done. According to the latest analysis of illegal killing of elephants for 2015 released by the CITES Secretariat, the overall poaching levels

of African elephants remains alarmingly high.

The Global Coalition campaign announced on 3rd March 2016 is a joint effort by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, CITES and other partners.

The campaign will call on individuals, businesses, civil society and academia to use their spheres of influence to end the illicit trade in wildlife and for governments to meet and scale up their recent commitments.



April 2016 South – South Solidarity

Socio-economic development models have changed worldwide as resources got depleted. Those who focused on infrastructure and industrial development in the past failed to achieve decent life for the population as in Russia and Eastern Europe. Western countries focused on the standard of living and luxury and used scientific advancement for industrial development, but they failed to observe the ecological balance and social justice.

China focused on social justice and stability to overcome problems of overpopulation, while India focused on values, education and scientific excellence which enabled its people to seek jobs outside their country. In these two overpopulated countries, however, there are very good examples of best environmental practices aiming to alleviate the high pressure on natural resources, especially in waste reduction, reuse and recycling and renewable energy.

Many developing countries tried to copy the western model but, with bad management and corruption, ended up depleting their natural resources without achieving even minimal decent life for their people. This was mainly because they focused on the husks of western civilization without building a scientific base or technical capacity. Under such bad economic situations most highly skilled scientists, planners and labor left their countries seeking better life in the rich countries.

The developing countries went from bad to worse due to political instability and the lack of wise visionary leadership. The opposite has been happening in the United Arab Emirates as the dedicated visionary leaders focused all along on the human being and the environment, which are the most important elements of development. The UAE is now pursuing happiness for all people, while most developing countries are struggling to provide the basics for decent life.

The UAE can act, therefore, as an excellent model for other developing countries of the South. They can follow suit if they collaborate and support each other to face the political and technical obstacles of sustainable development. The United Nations organizations have established an office & a forum for South – South Cooperation in order to exchange good practices and successful initiatives towards achieving sustainable development. It has been organizing an annual Global South – South Development Expo for this purpose since 2008.

The Global South – South Development Expo 2016 is going to be hosted here in Dubai by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment. This is expected to be something unique as it will be the first time to hold this important event outside of the UN premises.

There are so many initiatives and success stories here in the UAE that can be showcased, in addition to the successful stories of other countries. It is a great opportunity for all countries to strike win - win deals. This will play an important role in establishing communication and mutual support between developing countries to break the severity of climate change manifestations at the global level and to push industrial countries to fulfill their commitments towards the Paris Accord. Hence, they contribute significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN last year.

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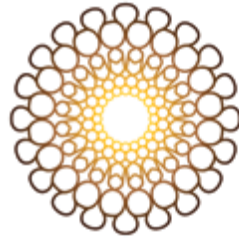
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