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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



Launch of 'Youth 101' initiative:
Emirati youth urged to take
leading role in nation building

WGES 2018 to underscore role of youth in global green economy movement



Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home



Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

The UAE's youth are today emerging as global role models in various facets of everyday life including leadership, excellence and an unwavering commitment to nation building. It was our Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who first placed confidence in the young people of this country when he recognised their potential in serving as the cornerstone of progress. This was at the time when the nation was just beginning to forge ahead in development. By investing in their capabilities, empowering and supporting them through education, innovation and creating a conducive environment for overall growth, he opened up new horizons for them, allowing them to forge ahead with their dreams.

The UAE's policies for empowering the youth have thus enabled them to excel and serve as a key catalyst for the development and progress of the country. The youth are today the nation's precious resource in contributing to its sustainable development efforts, and it is through them that the country can achieve its visionary aspirations.

In the words of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, "The youth are our present and future hope. They are the UAE's most valuable asset."

Initiatives such as "Youth 101" will not only prepare them for the future by enhancing their knowledge base but also enable them to meet the needs of the modern age by gaining the much-needed expertise in relevant fields. Like with any other country, in the UAE too, it is the youth that symbolize the hope and optimism of the nation. I believe that by following in the ideals of our founding fathers, they are capable of taking this march to development forward and placing the country on the global competitiveness map.

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"We will continue pursuing ambitious investments with an emphasis on projects that have a positive impact on people's lives. Clean and renewable energy is key to sustainable development and the UAE has set an example for its rapid adoption."

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

From the **Managing Editor**



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

For more than a decade now, the UAE's reputation as a sustainable energy pathbreaker has continued to gain international recognition given its relentless pursuit of a green agenda. By locally developing and deploying renewable energy technologies, the country has now attained a global role in new technology for clean, sustainable energy as it shares its knowledge and skills with the Global South, and countries in the Middle East and Asia in order to lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future. This is in keeping with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals that aligns with the UAE's national development priorities.

At the launch of the UAE Energy Report in Abu Dhabi attended by diplomats and thought leaders and at which I served as a panelist, it was evident that the UAE's extensive experience in sustainable energy is providing greater opportunities to support the world's quest for clean, renewable energy for sustainable development. The strategy adopted by the Founding Father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to lure global companies attracted by its massive oil potential is now being adopted under our wise leadership to attract global clean-tech businesses to shore up our renewable energy strengths. UAE universities also offer courses in this field and are thereby cultivating a workforce that will bolster home-grown clean-tech businesses.

Through developing world-class solar energy projects, the UAE continues to reiterate its commitment to renewable energy as a pillar of low-carbon economic growth. Deployment of such mega projects has made it the standard bearer for developing countries keen on initiating energy innovation projects in their countries.

The UAE places renewable energy development at the heart of sustainable energy transition as it is vital to deliver Goal seven of the UN SDGs - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The principles that underpin the UAE's national development as encapsulated in its Vision 2021 go hand in hand with this SDG framework and is a testament to the country's ambition to pursue a trajectory of sustainable development both at the national and global levels.

See

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Cover Story

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

Emirati youth urged
to take leading role
in nation building



[H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, witnesses launch of first "Youth 101" initiative in Abu Dhabi.](#)

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the first "Youth 101" initiative began in Abu Dhabi on 2nd October, with the attendance of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, under the title, "Essentials of Government Work."

The initiative was organised by the Federal Youth Authority, FYA, and witnessed the participation

of over 4,000 young men and women from various regions of the country.

"The UAE Government is an international example for governments, and the country's youth are part of this government and are partners in its success. Its efforts to provide them with knowledge and science was established by the UAE's leadership and are an ongoing part of the government's policies, as their knowledge of international developments, plans and strategies will ensure their role in serving their nation,"

Sheikh Mansour said. "This major gathering of the youth highlights their interest in benefitting from all opportunities that will enable them to improve their abilities and polish their skills to become active future leaders, through acquiring knowledge, meeting the needs of the age, and gaining much expertise, which will ensure their readiness to keep pace with future requirements," Sheikh Mansour added.

"This initiative is important, as it will help to establish other initiatives that will enable the youth to be creative and



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

“YOUTH 101” is an initiative that seeks to empower the youth and present them with a platform to voice their concerns.

provide them with promising opportunities, as well as to benefit from relevant strategies and efforts, which will create a better tomorrow for our community and the country,” he further said.

During the initiative’s first session, the participating youth met with senior government officials, who spoke about the importance of managing government work and its role in elevating the community, improving the quality of life of individuals, and strengthening the UAE’s international stature,

as well as learning about the country’s advancement and development, which was achieved through the future vision and long-term thinking of the wise leadership.

The session highlighted the government’s efforts to foresee and prepare for the future, through creating new ministerial positions and promoting advanced sciences and artificial intelligence. The participating ministers also discussed other key topics related to quality of life, such as energy, climate change, health and prevention,

and the role of foreign trade in supporting the youth, and the role of the youth in defending and protecting the nation.

The FYA launched “Youth 101”, which aims to enhance national knowledge among the youth, build their knowledge base and raise their awareness on various fields. Under this initiative, the Federal Youth Authority will launch a series of courses provided by professionals and experts with the aim of raising the youth awareness and providing them with the basics of work in both public and private sector.



In addition, the FYA will launch a set of online courses through the initiative's digital platform to allow constant interaction with the youth and ensure they benefit from these courses. The platform will also enable young people to sign up for the sessions and interact directly with officials and experts in group sessions.

Dr Amal Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the Federal National Council, said the responsibility of preserving the country's prosperity, security, stability and progress is a participatory responsibility not only of the leadership, the government or the Federal National Council, but also of the youth of the homeland, "You are the sons of Zayed. You are the

dream of the UAE and you are our investment, which we are betting on. You are the security and safety of the UAE," she said.

Mohammad Al Bowardi, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, said that the youth are the backbone of the nation, while speaking about the role of young people in maintaining the sovereignty of the state.

He stressed the importance of empowering UAE women in the armed forces and enhancing the national spirit of youth through joining the national service, which contributes to the development of human defense capabilities.

Shamma Bint Suhail Faris Al

Mazrouei, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said the Youth 101 is an innovative initiative of the Federal Youth Authority.

It aims to create an innovative form of constructive communication between young people and decision-makers in the UAE to provide young people with knowledge and enable them to contribute effectively to the development process in the UAE, she added.

The initiative is part of the UAE's action plan to engage youth. The plan includes a number of programmes and initiatives such as the launch of Youth Workshops, Initiative of Endowment for Youth Projects, as well as a Smart Platform for Youth.



UAE begins new era of building, developing space sector

Dr. Ahmad bin Abdullah Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Higher Education and Advanced Skills and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Space Agency, said that the declaration of the two astronauts who will travel to space under the UAE flag has placed the country in a more competitive and proud position.

It will also start a new era of the development of its space sector and other relevant scientific and professional sectors, he added.

In his statement on the landmark development, he stressed that the declaration confirms the vision of the wise leadership, which has prioritised building the

capacities of the Emiratis.

He added that the UAE's youth are creating a new era of excellence, and they have confirmed their scientific and professional capacities to drive the country to achieve its unlimited space ambitions.

He also pointed out that the selection of the first two Emirati astronauts reflects the success of the country's policies and plans to develop its scientific and technical human resources, and has proved that the UAE is capable of preparing future generations who can lead the space sector.

Dr. Eng. Mohammed Nasser Al Ahbabi, Director-General of the

UAE Space Agency, described the declaration as a historical moment in the journey of the country and its space sector.

In his statement, Al Ahbabi said that the UAE's courageous men will embrace space and represent a country that was only established a few decades ago but has managed to create generations that can explore space and serve humanity.

He added that the UAE is close to achieving the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to reach space, as he established the country's space sector in the 1970s. The declaration honours his legacy while the country is celebrating the Year of Zayed, he added.

Cover Story

10 c r e a t i n g

WGES 2018 to underscore role of youth in global green economy movement



The Climate Innovations Exchange, CLIX, initiative launched by the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, will provide a platform for young international green entrepreneurs to pitch ideas to investors.

The World Green Economy Summit, WGES 2018, is set to emphasise the role of young men and women in global efforts to build a green economy when it opens in Dubai, from 24th-25th October.

Organisers of WGES made the announcement as the UAE joins the worldwide celebration of the United Nations' International Youth Day, marked on 12th August, in growing recognition of the need to engage the youth in decision-making processes and other activities that affect them.

Organised by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and World Green Economy Organisation, WGES will highlight this year the Climate Innovations Exchange, CLIX, initiative launched by the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, to provide a platform for young international green entrepreneurs to pitch ideas to investors.

CLIX conducts a global search for breakthrough innovations, attracting hundreds of applications from all over the world ahead of the official launch of the forum. At last year's CLIX,

27 finalists exhibited their inventions and met with investors, resulting in nearly half the finalists receiving funding pledges from investors, totaling more than US\$17.5 million.

"WGES and CLIX offer an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to support youth and underscore their role in achieving comprehensive sustainable development. WGES will also be an interactive platform to communicate with youth and know their opinions and views, build their capacities, unleash their creativity and engage them



CLIX WILL accept ideas in three new fields for the 2019 edition, namely sustainability in space, the future of energy, and innovation in agriculture and water.

in building a better future for our country and the world,” said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Chairman of WGES.

In turn, Fahed Al Hammadi, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for Green Development and Climate Change Sector at MOCCAE, said, “The forum is an opportunity to interact with young entrepreneurs about clean tech opportunities and innovations in air pollution, clean mobility, and agriculture. It is for this reason that we invited shortlisted applicants to directly

pitch their ideas to investors, successful entrepreneurs, and high-level government officials.”

He added that CLIX will accept ideas in three new fields for the 2019 edition, namely sustainability in space, the future of energy, and innovation in agriculture and water. “We are confident that we will receive a bigger number of entries next year.”

Held under the theme ‘Driving Innovation, Leading Change’, WGES 2018 will provide opportunities for knowledge

sharing focusing on new technologies that drive the growth for a green economy, including improvements in energy efficiency, energy conservation and waste reduction.

WGES 2018 will focus on three main pillars, green capital, digital transformation, and leadership and social engagement. It will gather financial executives, investment professionals, and thought leaders to discuss ways to increase green capital flows into regional and global environment-friendly projects and how to de-risk those investments.

UAE Energy Diplomacy Report released



Leading think tanks create blueprint for energy diplomacy to help millions in developing countries access sustainable power

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, served as a panelist at the launch event of the 'UAE Energy Diplomacy Report' in Abu Dhabi unveiled by the TRENDS Research and Advisory and the Stimson Centre in Washington DC.

The report provides context for renewable energy sector development in the UAE, identifies key lessons-learned from the UAE's first decade of renewable energy leadership and engagement, and explores

specific opportunities for the UAE's leadership to further share these lessons with the Global South. It aims to support the UAE in strategically expanding its renewable energy diplomacy and investment throughout the Global South, in particular Southeast Asia, in order to lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future.

Commenting on the release, Dr. Ahmed Thani Al Hamli, TRENDS President and founder, said, "In 2021, the UAE will be celebrating our achievements of 50 years as an independent nation.

The phenomenal growth and development has required the strategic use of our extensive energy resources.

"The UAE is of the view that national and global growth cannot be at the expense of environment through non-sustainable sources. This makes innovation in sustainable energy a national priority. As this report shows the UAE's extensive experience in sustainable energy provides opportunities for further support the world's quest clean, renewable energy for sustainable development," he added.



THE REPORT launch was attended by diplomats, thought leaders, governmental and semi-governmental representatives and media members.

Dr. Al Hamli went on to say that the UAE will remain committed to clean energy at home and will use its knowledge and skills to support the globe through clean energy diplomacy. "It has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy innovation. Its record-setting prices for utility scale solar to attract international admiration after Abu Dhabi and Dubai achieved solar prices below US\$0.03 per kilowatt-hour," he explained.

This breakthrough served as a global bellwether to remove any remaining doubts that solar power can compete with fossil fuels and

put the UAE front in discussions of renewable energy.

Lincoln Bloomfield, Chairman Emeritus of Stimson Centre and Non-Resident Fellow with TRENDS, said, "With this report, the TRENDS-Stimson collaboration has reached a new level of impact. The study embodies both TRENDS' and Stimson's specialty in seeking innovative approaches to global problems, in this case a 'trans-regional' solution connecting UAE's leading expertise with the needs of a major economic and environmental ecosystem

in Southeast Asia."

Internationally, the UAE's spirited diplomatic support for the deployment of renewable energy projects in the Global South have placed it on equal footing with global powers such as the EU, US, and China. It impressively achieved its success with far fewer resources at its disposal and thus serves as a standard bearer for developing countries. This success positions the UAE well to significantly expand efforts to promote sustainable development in the Global South and lead on renewable energy innovation.

Exhibition

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

Solar Decathlon Middle East to debut in Dubai



Dubai will host the first and second Solar Decathlons as part of a partnership between the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, DEWA, and the US Department of Energy.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, has opened registration for the public to visit the Solar Decathlon Middle East, SDME 2018, at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Seih Al Dahl, Dubai. The exhibition is being held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, from 14th to 29th November, 2018.

A total of 15 teams representing 28 universities from 11 countries

are taking part in the competition. Dubai will host the first and second Solar Decathlons as part of a partnership between the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, DEWA, and the US Department of Energy. The second SDME will be held in 2020 to coincide with Expo 2020 Dubai.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Managing Director and CEO of DEWA, urged the public to visit the 60,000 square-metre SDME site at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest

single-site solar park in the world based on the Independent Power Producer model, highlighting its significant role in Dubai's transition towards renewable and clean energy. The park supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, to provide 75 percent of the Emirate's total power output from clean energy, and establish a sustainable model to provide energy and support economic growth, as well as make Dubai the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050.

"The first SDME has a special significance as it is being



A TOTAL of 15 teams representing 28 universities from 11 countries are taking part in the competition.

organised during the Year of Zayed 2018, which marks 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who consolidated the principles of sustainable development in the UAE.

“This is being continued by the wise leadership of the country and is reflected in the development strategies, programmes, and plans that ensure a sustainable growth that balances development with environmental conservation, especially the UAE Centennial 2071 and the National Agenda for the UAE Vision 2021,” he said.

“The UAE has become a hub for creativity, and a destination and incubator for innovators from all over the world, thanks to the efforts of our wise leadership, who provide an innovation-friendly environment that promotes research and development.

“This supports the National Advanced Sciences Agenda 2031 launched by the Ruler of Dubai to use advanced sciences to develop and create solutions for future challenges. It is also aligned with the National Innovation Strategy to make the UAE one of the most

innovative countries in the world. Hosting the world’s largest and most competitive and challenging university competition in Dubai supports our efforts to provide opportunities for the youth, who are the driving force for building a brighter future.

“We want to unleash their potential and encourage them to be creative and innovative. The contest will also help students develop effective solutions and support global efforts to protect the planet from the effects of global warming,” Al Tayer said in conclusion.

Launch

16 creating green community

DCT releases book featuring selected quotes by Sheikh Zayed in four languages



[“Words of a leader - Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan”, a book featuring selected quotes by the Founding Father of the UAE is now available in four languages: English, French, German and Spanish.](#)

Marking the centenary of the birth of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, DCT – Abu Dhabi, has released “Words of a leader - Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan”, a book featuring selected quotes by the Founding Father.

Translated from Arabic, the book is now available in four languages: English, French, German and Spanish, with Chinese, Hindi and Russian translations expected soon. Coinciding with the “Year

of Zayed 2018”, the publishing of this special title in four languages comes in conjunction with the 10th edition of Al Ain Book Fair held between 23rd September and 2nd October.

The book comprises many speeches and statements made by Sheikh Zayed, focusing on the foundations of sound governance, and on the secret behind a country’s success, which is to serve the people and further their aspirations. “Officials live to serve the people” is one of the values that underline his thinking. He often painted the image of the

good employee or the virtuous official, calling for the productive employment of the country’s riches and openness to modern science.

Commenting on the release, Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of DCT Abu Dhabi, said, “Throughout his life, the late Sheikh Zayed instilled in us deep values of nation-building, welfare, development, social harmony, charity, dialogue, international cooperation and much else from the beliefs that he employed in building the UAE. Driven by these values, the UAE quickly became



THE SELECTED quotes reveal the depth of Sheikh Zayed's intellect and comprehensive forward-looking mindset.

a developed country and a model for other countries.”

Al Mubarak noted, “Publishing this selection of quotes by the Founding Father in Arabic and four other languages in this the Year of Zayed, celebrates his exemplary lifetime of priceless ideals. Drawing on his teachings, we present this book to future generations so that they may learn from his sound and moderate ways. We also present this book to the world offering them the chance to explore the mind of a distinguished leader who managed to harness the

simplest resources to build a strong and influential country.”

The selected quotes reveal the depth of Sheikh Zayed's intellect and comprehensive forward-looking mindset. He inspired young people, offering deep insights into his view of the future and the keys behind success while urging them to take action and work tirelessly. He also spoke of and worked towards achieving equality for women in all aspects of life. His political statements were built on a profound passion for justice, which he kept framed in his belief in coexistence,

and accordingly continued to speak against war, advocate intercultural dialogue, and defend the rights of nations suffering injustice.

The Founding Father saw in the prosperity of the UAE and its GGC sister-countries an entwined fate that would later engulf the Arab world and other neighbouring countries. He always preached cooperation, and solidarity among all nations towards transcending all differences. He advocated openness and modernity based on authenticity and heritage, which he thought distinguished each country.

Exhibition

18 creating green communities

Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy showcased at ADIHEX



Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about how Sheikh Zayed's efforts to protect ecosystems and conserve species have paved the way for a more sustainable future.

Inspired by the Year of Zayed, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD, took visitors on a journey through the environmental legacy of the Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, at the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition, ADIHEX 2018.

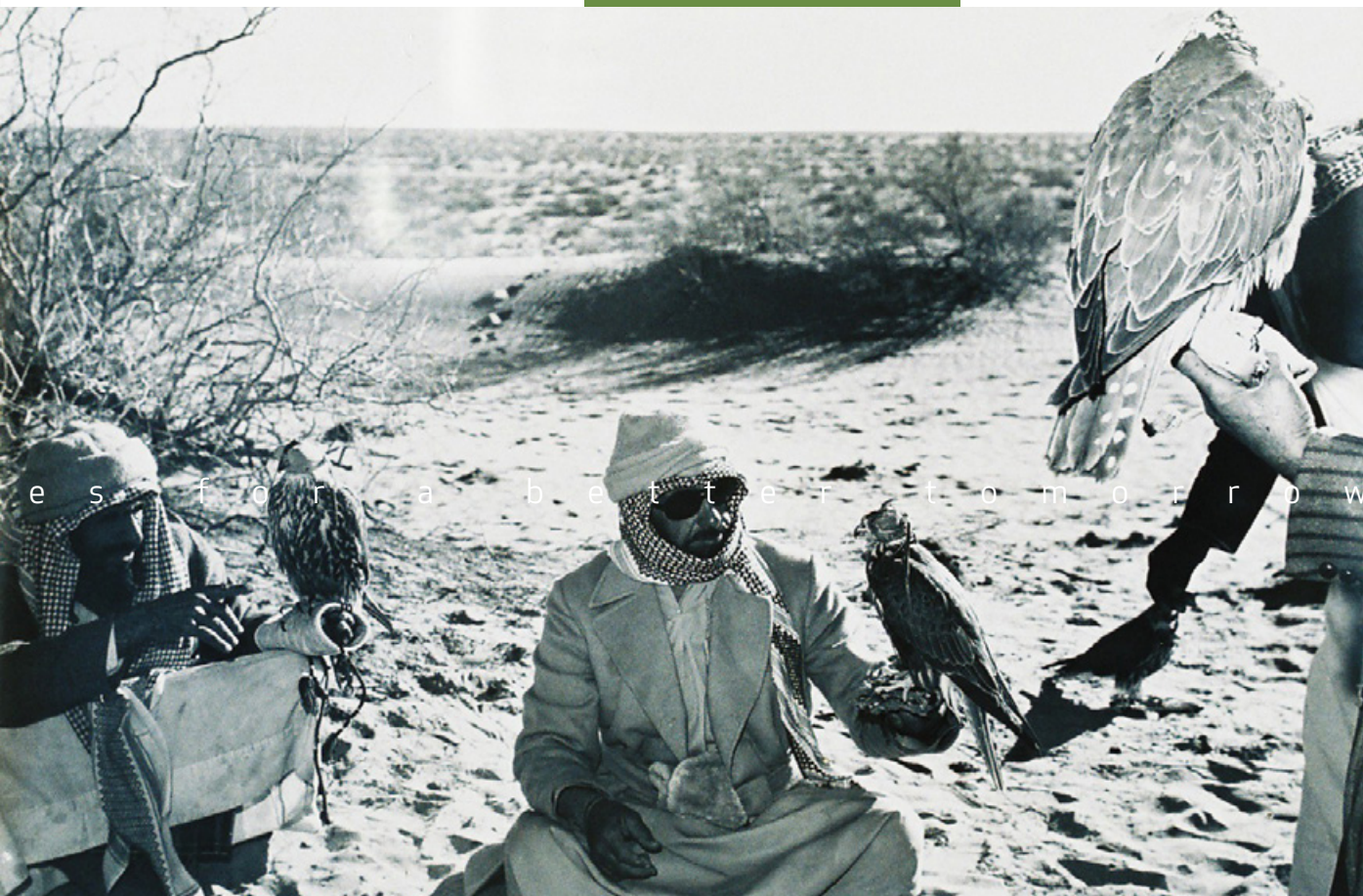
Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about how Sheikh Zayed's efforts to protect ecosystems and conserve species have paved the way for a more sustainable future. The stand featured Protected Areas,

Endangered Species, Regulations, the Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme, the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital and Inspired Citizens.

In the interactive Protected Areas zone, visitors were engaged in a fun way to learn about the different protected areas and the species that inhabit them and learn about how the late Sheikh Zayed established Al Wathba Wetland Reserve as a protected area in 1998 after he observed the successful breeding of the flamingo for the first time on that site. Today, Al Wathba is the only site in the Arabian

Peninsula where flamingos continue to breed regularly. It is an internationally recognised sustainable tourism destination and is one of the 19 protected areas under the Sheikh Zayed Protected Areas Network.

In the Endangered Species zone, visitors were inspired by his passion for species conservation, which bore fruit both locally and internationally. The late Sheikh Zayed was the first to encourage action on the threats posed to birds and animal species. He set in motion a wide variety of programmes



THE LATE SHEIKH ZAYED set in motion a wide variety of programmes designed to protect various species

designed to protect various species. For example, he set up a captive-breeding programme capturing two breeding pairs of Arabian Oryx, which were nearing extinction, to become the heart of a conservation initiative. Today, almost 50 years later, thanks to the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Arabian Oryx Release Programme, implemented by EAD, the numbers of Arabian Oryx in the UAE have increased to over 10,000, of which 5,000 are in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Moreover, efforts have led to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN, downlisting the status of the

Arabian Oryx from “Endangered” to “Vulnerable” in 2011.

In the Regulations zone, visitors learnt more about how Sheikh Zayed’s efforts began in 1966 to protect the environment and biodiversity through the issuance of environmental regulations and laws and the adoption of procedures, controls and standards for many environmental issues, including the regulation of hunting.

In the Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme zone, visitors gained knowledge about one

of the most impactful wildlife release programmes in the world, which he set up in 1995. Since then, 1,857 falcons have been returned to the wild.

In the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital zone, visitors learnt about how the late Sheikh Zayed established, in the early 1980s, a small falcon hospital outside of Abu Dhabi. They also had the opportunity to adopt cats and dogs on-site from the Hospital’s Abu Dhabi Animal Shelter. Today, the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital, managed by EAD, has become the world’s largest falcon hospital in the world and



an award-winning sustainable tourism destination.

Finally, the Inspired Citizens zone highlighted Sheikh Zayed's role in inspiring a new generation of young Emirati environmentalists that are carrying his environmental legacy forward.

The highlight of the stand was a holographic theatre-style experience in the form of a captivating story summarising the late Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy

UAEU breaks Guinness World Record for largest paper mosaic painting

As part of its celebration of the 'Year of Zayed', the UAE

University (UAEU) has broken the Guinness World Record for the world's largest mosaic painting, made of paper rolls.

The painting, created by 532 students of the UAEU, depicts the logo of the 'Year of Zayed' and is aimed at expressing the love and gratitude of UAE citizens to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

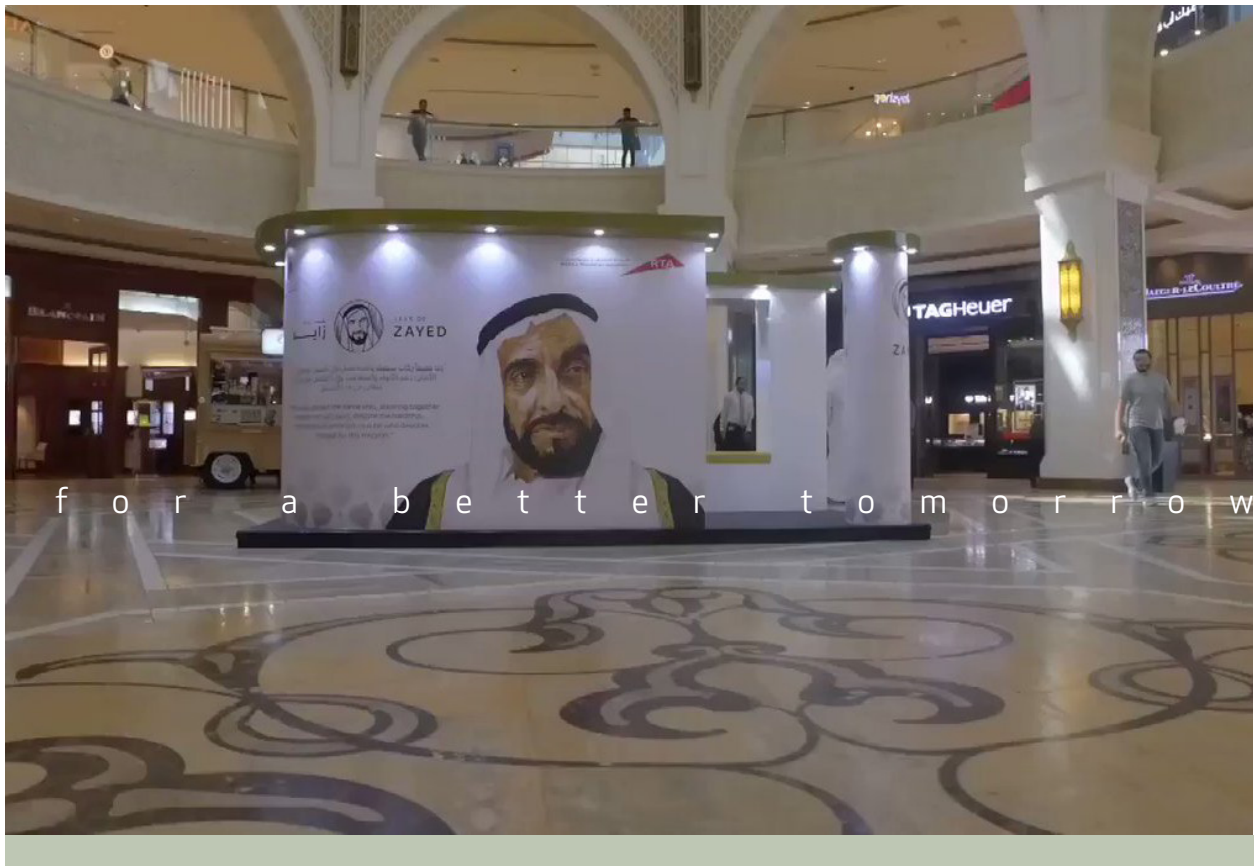
The painting, which will be on display at the female students colleges, is 10 meters high and 3.125 meters wide. The students took seven months to complete it, using 276,800 paper rolls.

Professor Mohamed Albaili, Vice Chancellor of the UAEU, said the students sought through this

initiative to highlight the role played by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in building the UAE, his determination to achieve success and his love for humanity.

Dr. Ateeq Almansoori, Associate Provost for Students' Affairs, said the students worked for a total of 3,420 hours to finish the 31.25-square meter work.





‘Love for Zayed’ mobile gallery launched

The Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority, RTA, Mattar Al Tayer has inaugurated ‘Love for Zayed’ mobile gallery, in celebration of Year of Zayed.

The RTA staged the first segment of the mobile gallery for a week at Dubai Mall in collaboration with the National Archives to celebrate the Year of Zayed. The exhibition narrates the career highlights of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his historical role in establishing the Federation.

Al Tayer toured the exhibition, which features a 3D design of the name ‘Zayed’ in Arabic letters,

which showcases an array of rare photographs and documentaries prepared by the National Archives.

“The mobile gallery offers an extensive view of the life of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, which articulates a leader’s ambition and the will of the people in realising the first successful Arab union model. Sheikh Zayed’s persona ranks high in the history of the most influential contemporary leaders,” said Moaza Al Marri, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication, at RTA’s Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector.

“The mobile gallery will later shift to several other venues in

cooperation with Emaar Malls, Nakheel and Serco in Dubai Mall, Ibn Battuta Mall, Marina Mall, Al Ras Metro Station, Etisalat Metro Station and Dragon Mart. Volunteers from RTA and National Archives are deployed to communicate with visitors and acknowledge their queries,” added Al Marri.

According to Farhan Al Marzouqi, Director of the Corporate and Community Outreach Department at the National Archives, “In the context of Zayed Centennial initiative, the National Archives has provided several photographs and documentaries for this mobile gallery offering a rich insight into the foundation of the UAE under the leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed.”

Congress

22 c r e a t i n g



Experts to discuss Net Zero Cities at 7th EmiratesGBC Congress

The EmiratesGBC Congress will be held under the theme “Targeting Zero: A Vision for Future Cities”, on 9th October at the Pullman Dubai Creek City Centre hotel.

Regional and international experts on sustainable built environments will come together at the 7th Annual Emirates Green Building Council, EmiratesGBC, Congress to discuss best practices and strategies to go beyond net zero carbon buildings, and explore the significance of net zero cities in ensuring the viability and liveability of our cities in the future.

Organised by EmiratesGBC, an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting

green building practices, the Congress will be held under the theme “Targeting Zero: A Vision for Future Cities”, on 9th October, 2018 at the Pullman Dubai Creek City Centre hotel.

The congress will commence with welcome addresses by Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman of EmiratesGBC; Eng. Aisha Al Abdooli, Director of Green Development, Ministry of Climate Change & Environment; and Ahmed Muhairbi, Secretary-General, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy.

It will be moderated by Holley

Chant, Executive Director of Corporate Sustainability, KEO International Consultants.

Saeed Al Abbar said, “The congress this year will drive the conversation forward and take a deep dive into the net zero building movement and explore how we can apply and rapidly expand the approach to our cities in the UAE, the region and around the world.

“The fast pace of urbanisation today is a fundamental challenge, and we are bringing both regional and international experts to the



THE DISCUSSIONS will focus on three sub-themes that are closely related to the values associated with the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE.

UAE to participate in this dialogue as the emphasis on sustainable buildings and cities becomes more crucial than ever,” he added.

Saeed Al Abbar continued: “From the government to the public and private sectors, the UAE has shown its commitment and now we must boldly deliver on it as the global net zero emissions timeline approaches.”

The Annual EmiratesGBC Congress brings together international experts in diverse aspects of energy management and sustainable development to

discuss strategies for promoting sustainable built environments for the cities of the future in line with UAE Vision 2021 and the objectives of the Paris COP21 Climate Agreement.

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

The discussions will focus on

three sub-themes that are closely related to honouring and promoting the values associated with the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the nation, as the UAE marks the Year of Zayed this year to commemorate his 100th birth anniversary.

These are “Inspired Cities reflecting the Wisdom of Sheikh Zayed”, “Collaborative Cities focusing on the value of Respect” and “Holistic Cities mirroring the value of Sustainability” which cater to the needs of future generations.

Exhibition

24 creating green community

WETEX, Dubai Solar Show attract world's largest companies



The innovative solutions and advanced technologies relating to water issues are a priority of the 20th Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition, WETEX 2018.

The issue of potable water scarcity around the world has led several companies operating in this sector to invest in research using new technologies for water production and storage, limiting water wastage and rationalising consumption.

Global research and developmental efforts have led to a qualitative shift in water desalination, reducing costs, wastewater treatment, and introducing alternative clean energy sources to desalinate water, such as solar power and

other innovative technologies. The innovative solutions and advanced technologies relating to water issues are a priority of the 20th Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition, WETEX 2018.

Organised by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, the event will be held from 23rd to 25th October, 2018 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre under the theme 'At the forefront of sustainability', highlighting the latest developments and technologies in the fields of water, energy, and

environment.

The region's largest-of-its-kind exhibition coincides with the third Dubai Solar Show which highlights the latest innovations in the solar energy sector, especially in relation to desalination and water treatment using solar power. The exhibition will also focus on the region's largest projects in this sector by providing participants with a unique platform to build partnerships with governmental and private sectors with the aim to develop innovative solutions.

This year, WETEX 2018 will



THE 20TH edition of WETEX will be held under the theme 'At the forefront of sustainability'.

bring together the world's most proficient professionals in the water technology sector, showcasing water treatment and desalination plants, pipes, coolers, heaters, water purifiers, pumps and valves, state-of-the-art irrigation systems, agriculture and horticulture equipment, and dewatering equipment.

The event will also focus on rationalisation of water consumption by highlighting products for leak detection and treatment products, lining tanks, and other materials used in the water sector.

Empower to highlight its district cooling technologies achievements

Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corporation, Empower, continues its efforts to promote green buildings, through its participation as a strategic partner at WETEX 2018.

Empowe will present its latest innovative and environmentally-friendly solutions in the field of district cooling. This supports local and international efforts to conserve natural resources and protect the environment, in line with the UN SDG's. It is also

an opportunity to highlight the district cooling sector's steady growth in the region.

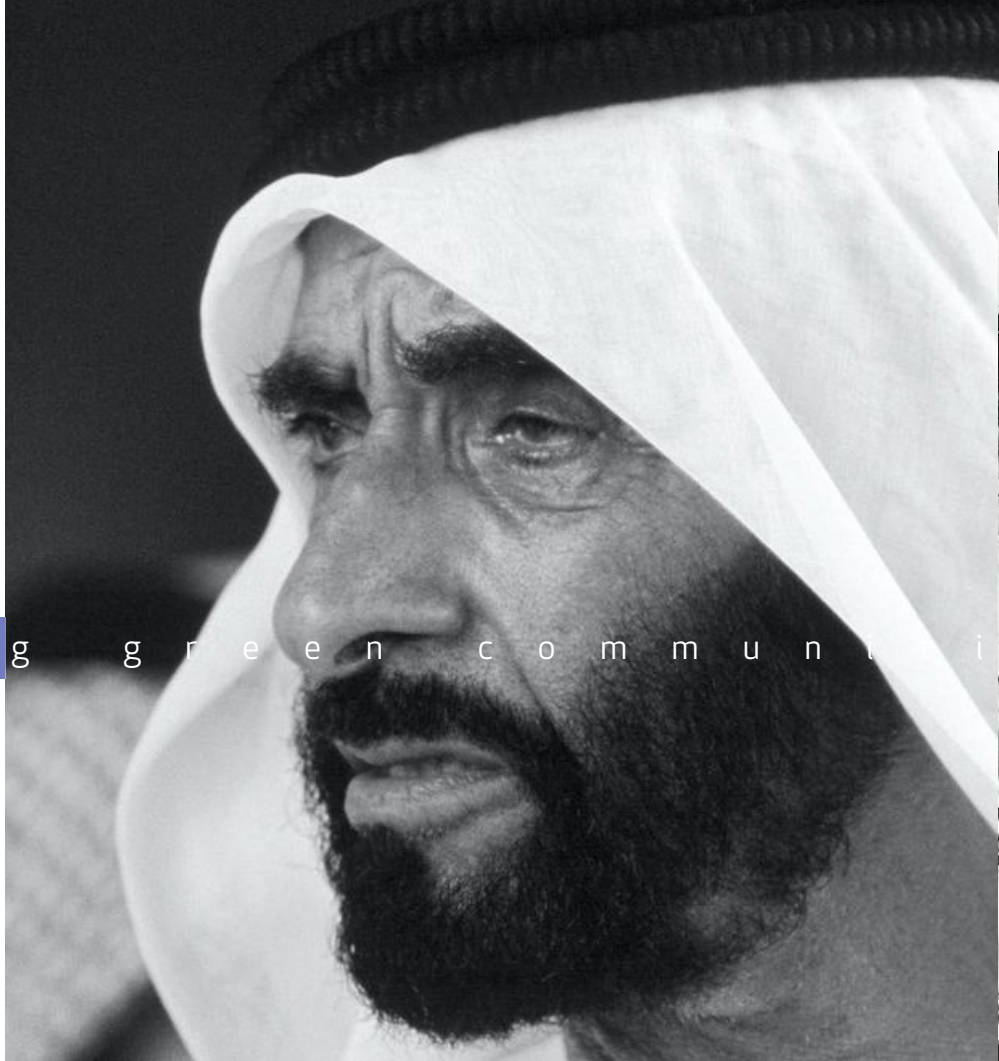
"WETEX is a pilot platform that reviews the latest technologies and innovations in district cooling solutions. It aims to share experiences, identify challenges and find innovative and effective solutions to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals," said Ahmad bin Shafar, CEO of Empower. He affirmed Empower's commitment to take part in exhibitions and conferences that support the sustainable development process in the UAE.



Initiative

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

Suqia launches '100 Letters to Zayed' initiative



The initiative seeks to collect 100 messages addressed to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to highlight his role in consolidating the principles of charity and humanitarianism in the UAE.

The UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia) has launched its new "100 Letters to Zayed" initiative, to collect 100 messages addressed to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to highlight his role in consolidating the principles of charity and humanitarianism in the UAE.

Suqia is asking its volunteers and staff from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, beneficiaries of its projects, and community members, to express their affection and gratitude to the late Sheikh Zayed.

Suqia has invited those who wish to participate to send their messages in Arabic or English, typed or hand-written, drawings, voice or video messages, or recorded in sign language. Suqia will compile these messages and publish them in a book titled "Letters to Zayed" by the end of the year.

"Charity and philanthropy have always been key principles in the UAE, which extends its helping hands to all people around the world, alleviating human suffering regardless of race or religion. This stems from Islamic principles,

Arab traditions, and the noble values that our Founding Fathers have instilled in the hearts of all Emiratis," said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Suqia.

"Since its launch by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, Suqia has contributed to consolidating Sheikh Zayed's approach to charity and humanitarianism, which has been continued by our wise leadership to improve the living conditions of poor and afflicted communities and



THE "100 Letters to Zayed" is one of the social initiatives and projects launched by Suqia during the Year of Zayed.

support sustainable development. The UAE is one of the world's top donors, ranking first as the largest official development aid donor relative to national income in 2017 for the fifth consecutive year according to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development," he added.

"Suqia is committed to implementing one of the key objectives set by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives foundation to deal with poverty and disease by

contributing to finding permanent and sustainable solutions to water scarcity around the world. This is achieved through research, studies and projects that use solar power to provide clean drinking water, as well as provide water to millions of underprivileged people around the world, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or culture," Al Tayer added.

Mohammed Abdulkarim Al Shamsi, Acting Director of Suqia, noted that Suqia approved 93 projects in 12 countries, benefiting over 119,350 people

in the first group of the projects that it is implementing in the Year of Zayed in cooperation with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment. There are around 100 projects to provide clean drinking water to several regions around the world.

The "100 Letters to Zayed" is one of the social initiatives and projects launched by Suqia during the Year of Zayed which marks the 100th birth anniversary of Sheikh Zayed. Suqia's other initiatives include the 100 Volunteers initiative to promote volunteering



in society and attract 100 volunteers from the DEWA staff; the 100 Water Projects initiative; the 100 Water Endowments initiative to provide 100 water coolers to various parts of Dubai, and the Suqia Zayed initiative to provide clean drinking water during the Holy Month of Ramadan, in cooperation with local associations, and to those fasting in different countries, in cooperation with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment.

This is in addition to international initiatives to provide safe drinking water to needy communities and implement sustainable development projects that serve their needs.

Ministry of Interior launches 'Zayed Taught Me' initiative

The Inspector-General's Office at the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation and coordination with the Higher Committee of the Year of Zayed Initiatives at the Ministry, inaugurated the "Zayed Taught Me" initiative, as part of the Year of Zayed, at the headquarters of the Police College.

The initiative highlights the values that Sheikh Zayed passed down to his people through every generation, as well as his role in building the nation and his local and international accomplishments.

The values that Sheikh Zayed was known for were wisdom, respect, determination, will, loyalty and

belonging to the nation, and the readiness to sacrifice everything precious for it.

Brigadier Walid Salem Al Shamsi, Director-General of the Police College, accompanied by Brigadier Dr. Jassim Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Deputy Inspector-General, and other officers, highlighted phrases that affirm the values and principles that community members have gained from Sheikh Zayed.

The initiative is an electronic book that can be used to document the most prominent lessons and principles that community members have gained from Sheikh Zayed, which will be distributed to all police general commands in the country.



Sheikh Zayed role model for giving: Hamad Al Ameri

Hamad Salem bin Kardous Al Ameri, Director-General of the Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, has said that the prestigious global stature acquired by the UAE is attributed to the wise vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

He added that Sheikh Zayed engraved his name in the memory of Emirati and international charity and humanitarian work, representing a unique model for international giving, without discrimination on the basis of colour, race or religion.

In his statement marking World Charity Day that was observed on 25th September, he stressed

that this international occasion highlights the charity and humanitarian achievements that contributed to enhancing the quality of life of the beneficiaries of the initiatives adopted by many countries, including the UAE, the world's largest donor of official development aid last year, relative to its national income.

Al Ameri added that this international occasion coincides with the Year of Zayed, a leader who represents a role model to the people of the UAE and the entire Arab world.

“At the Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, we are continuing to celebrate Emirati charity work, through a series of

programmes and local, regional and international projects, which aim to achieve social development and ensure well-being for the people,” he stated.

Al Ameri noted that the Foundation has succeeded in creating a credible charity work system, monitored by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, and H.H. Sheikh Omar bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

It has intensified its local and international charity and humanitarian work, in cooperation with other Emirati humanitarian organisations.

Workshop

30 creating green community

UAE assesses adaptation to climate change in the health context

Health experts concluded that the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on human health in the UAE are primarily seen in the form of heat stress which results in reduced labor productivity, particularly for outdoor laborers, and mortality or morbidity due to heat stroke.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) has conducted an overall assessment of climate adaptation in the health context in the UAE. Through surveys and a stakeholders' workshop, MOCCA outlined the direct and indirect climate-related health risks and the existing and possible actionable solutions for public health adaptation.

Officials from the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP), Department of Health - Abu Dhabi, Dubai Health Authority, as well as representatives from the private

sector and academia attended the workshop and contributed their insights on the topic.

Fahed Al Hammadi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Green Development and Climate Change Sector at MOCCA, said, "We are already feeling the impacts of climate change in all aspects of our lives. Given the current projections, such impacts will continue to grow in intensity and frequency, and adaptation is the only viable response strategy."

"This assessment of climate-related health risks is the first

brick in the wall to identify the current impacts of climate change on various sectors and come up with ways to adapt to these impacts. Such assessments will help us understand the bigger picture and act accordingly."

For his part, Dr Hussein Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Undersecretary for Centers and Health Clinics, MOHAP, said, "The recent assessment reveals the burden of climate-related diseases, which should be monitored and addressed. These include diseases associated with carbon pollution, such as





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

CLIMATE CHANGE and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are two of the defining challenges of the 21st century, each posing significant threats to health and sustainable development.

cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, climate-related infectious diseases, malnutrition, and heat stress, which leads to reduced labor productivity and spiraling health costs.”

Health experts concluded that the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on human health in the UAE are primarily seen in the form of heat stress. This results in reduced labor productivity, particularly for outdoor laborers, and mortality or morbidity due to heat stroke.

Health experts proposed multiple

actions to help address high and medium risks.

Proposed actions include enhancing early warning systems and developing heat alert plans, especially for outdoor laborers during extreme heat events, and developing the capacity of clinics and health stations to recognize and respond to labor concerns on reduced productivity due to climate-related factors.

Furthermore, they recommended that more research needs to be undertaken on the effects of climate change on labor

productivity, in addition to strengthening enforcement of existing initiatives such as the Safety in Heat and midday break programs.

The assessment findings correlate to those of the Leaders’ Roundtable: Climate Change and Public Health held on the sidelines of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 73). The roundtable touched on the non-communicable disease (NCD) dimension of the climate-health nexus, given that many greenhouse gas emission sources are key drivers of NCDs.

Conference

32 creating green community

UAE hosts high-level discussion on Averting Future Disease Outbreaks



The discussion was framed within the broader context of the need for a greater focus on healthcare systems in light of the third Sustainable Development Goal: providing good health and well-being.

The UAE and its participating delegation hosted a high-level discussion in cooperation with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, on the sidelines of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNGA. The discussion on Averting Future Disease Outbreaks comes as a precursor of Gavi's upcoming mid-term review (MTR) conference in Abu Dhabi in December 2018.

The side-event aims to help galvanise support for the steps necessary to prevent future outbreaks and speed up global disease eradication efforts.

Chaired by Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, and moderated by Dr. Seth Berkley, Chief Executive Officer of GAVI, a public-private partnership committed to saving children's lives around the world, the discussion featured a panel of high-level speakers.

The discussion was framed within the broader context of the need for a greater focus on healthcare systems in light of the third Sustainable Development Goal: providing good health and well-being, how investments in

routine health services and new collaboration models can reduce the threat of outbreaks.

In her opening address, Reem Al Hashimy stressed that "In a world with shifting populations and increased inter-connectedness, infectious diseases know no boundaries. It takes as little as 36 hours for a disease outbreak to spread from a remote community in one country and spread across to other countries.

"Such a threat has profound repercussions as evident from the human and economic cost of



THE DISCUSSION comes as a reaffirmation of the UAE's commitment to the Social Development Goals.

the outbreaks we witnessed – like Ebola, cholera and yellow fever. At the same time, old threats like, measles are on the rise again,” she added.

‘Moreover, by 2050, the global population will stand at 9.7 billion with two-thirds of humanity living in urban areas. Urbanization, increasing interconnectedness through travel, migration and climate change are likely to increase the frequency and reach of disease outbreaks.

“Disease outbreaks and epidemics impose high human and economic

costs on countries; for instance, the economic impact of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone alone was estimated to be US\$ 2.8 billion,” she observed.

She added that “preventing this will require global solidarity and this is why we gather here today, to highlight the importance of urgent collaboration, innovation and investment to address disease threats and prevent future outbreaks.”

The discussion comes as a reaffirmation of the UAE's commitment to the Social

Development Goals, as the country commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan throughout 2018.

Gavi's mid-term review (MTR) conference will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi on 10-11 December 2018.

The high-level meeting will celebrate 700 million people immunised and 10 million lives saved since Gavi's inception, review progress against the 2016-2020 investment case and launch the next replenishment cycle.

Conservation

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

Sahelian plains of Chad welcome 40 Scimitar-horned Oryx calves in 2018



The reintroduction of the Scimitar-horned Oryx into Chad has been described by many as the world's most ambitious large mammal reintroduction programme.

As part of the Scimitar-horned Oryx Reintroduction Programme, which is being led by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), in collaboration with the government of Chad and the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), the Sahelian plains of Chad have welcomed 40 Scimitar-horned oryx new calves in 2018. The birth of the new babies brings the total herd to 180 animals.

The programme not only succeeded in returning this once extinct-in-the-wild species to the Ouadi Rime-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve in Chad, but also aims

to ensure that the oryx thrive in their new surroundings. It is the first time the species has been repatriated to an unfenced area and its goal is to establish and maintain a healthy, self-sustaining herd of over 500 animals over a five-year period, which will continue to grow and adapt in the wild as the years go by.

It is believed that the last Scimitar-horned Oryx disappeared from Chad in the late 1980s and the species was officially declared globally "Extinct in the Wild" by the International Union for the

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2000, with the only surviving animals persisting in ex-situ, or captivity in breeding programmes in zoos and private collections across the world.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, EAD's Secretary-General, said, "The reintroduction of the Scimitar-horned Oryx into Chad has been described by many as the world's most ambitious large mammal reintroduction programme. To see this initiative taking shape from a dream to a vision, a strategy and then a reality is one of the most gratifying experiences that anyone



ONCE WIDELY distributed across the Sahel, from Senegal to Sudan, the oryx were hunted to extinction and killed during times of civil unrest in Chad and neighbouring regions.

who is passionate about wildlife conservation could wish for.”

“A project of such scale would not have been feasible without the collaboration between EAD, the Government of Chad and the Sahara Conservation Fund, not to mention the expertise and resources shared by the project’s other international partners, and many years of hard work and dedication of all those involved,” Al Mubarak added.

Another significant milestone in the programme was the recent release of a further 83 Scimitar-

horned Oryx into the wild in Chad at the end of July. The animals selected for the reintroduction came from the ‘world herd’ that EAD has been curating at its breeding facility in Delaija, Abu Dhabi.

Many of the animals that make up the ‘world herd’ were donated to EAD from the collection of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The genetic diversity of the blood-stock was increased with the addition of animals that were donated from a number of zoos and private collectors across the globe.

A very careful selection process took place at the Delaija facility whereby animals were carefully tested, and prepared for shipment to the pre-release facility within the protected area in Chad. After release, the wild herds continue to be protected by wildlife rangers of the Government of Chad’s Ministry of Environment and Fisheries. In addition, EAD continues to work closely with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) and Zoological Society of London to carefully monitor the daily movements of the animals in the wild with the aid of satellite collars.



Commenting on this recent release, Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director, Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector, at EAD said; "In preparation for the Oryx release, 73 animals were transported from the UAE in February to our pre-release facility in the Ouadi Rime-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve in Chad.

The team collared 70 individuals of this group allowing us to remotely learn more about their movement, behaviour and mortality and know more about the ecology of the species in the wild. Overall, the data will tell us where they move to seasonally, how far they travel, whether they stay together or disperse into different social groups, and even

if a poacher has taken an animal".

Dr. Shaikha said, "So far, our initial reports show the released animals appear to have gained good awareness of the area as they have been observed making efficient movements to and from the pre-release pens. Natural calving behavior is also being observed in the wild where the females separate from the group to give birth and then male/female pairs are temporarily formed. Reports also show that the longest distance travelled by one oryx is 139 km in one night, where the total area used by the oryx is approximately 12,000 km²."

She also noted; "There has been about 40 mm of rain in the reserve so far this year which is

hopefully the beginning of a good rainy season, where there will be plenty of grass growth to sustain the oryx through the year".

Once widely distributed across the Sahel, from Senegal to Sudan, the oryx were hunted to extinction and killed during times of civil unrest in Chad and neighbouring regions. Climate change and habitat encroachment are key threats to the antelope. By releasing the oryx into their native habitat during the rainy season when better resources are available, giving them time to acclimatise in a large fenced area and hiring rangers to patrol the reserve, EAD and its partners are hopeful that the animals will now have a better chance of survival.



Hamdan bin Zayed reiterates commitment to preserving Abu Dhabi's natural, cultural heritage

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, highlighted the commitment of the agency to preserve Abu Dhabi's natural and cultural heritage for future generations, inspired by the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

"Sheikh Zayed instinctively realised the importance of preserving the environment and protecting its biological diversity and cultural heritage, through launching relevant long-term programmes and initiatives to save species that have become extinct in the wild or are on the verge of extinction, which proved

his foresight and unique vision that was globally commended and appreciated," Sheikh Hamdan said. He made this statement during the agency's participation in the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition, ADIHEX, 2018.

Sheikh Hamdan expressed his pride at the patronage of President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the support of HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Honorary Chairman of the Agency.

"We are proud of our programmes that have increased the numbers and achieved the resettlement

of the Arabian Oryx. These efforts have extended beyond the borders of the UAE and reached Central Africa, and were crowned with success with the return of the African Oryx, or 'Abu Harab', to its natural range after it became extinct in the wild. This ambitious project is the largest of its kind in terms of reintroducing mammal species, and the first of its kind in terms of returning the oryx to its natural environment in the Republic of Chad, since it became extinct in the 1980s," he said.

To honour the legacy of Sheikh Zayed, the agency has launched successful species re-introduction programmes, which have redefined the future standards of such programmes.

Conservation

38 creating green community

Global wetland preservation, management is priority for UAE



Wetlands, the most economically valuable and among the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, are disappearing three times faster than forests with severe consequences for our future unless urgent action is taken to ensure their survival, warns a new report by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Wetlands, which include lakes, rivers, marshes and peatlands as well as coastal and marine areas such as estuaries, lagoons, mangroves and coral reefs, are currently estimated to cover more than 12.1 million km², an area greater than Greenland.

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCAEE, has taken significant measures towards wetland preservation and management, from launching the National Ecotourism Project to hosting an anticipated 1,000 delegates at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, COP13, this October.

Ahead of event, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands released the Global Wetlands Outlook 2018, GWO, highlighting that the world's wetlands are declining

rapidly, and have registered losses of 35 percent since 1970, at a pace three times faster than the loss of forests. The report warns that unless immediate action is taken, there will be serious repercussions for the future. The GWO's findings will inform discussions and decisions at COP13.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Wetlands are not just essential habitats for various species in the UAE that safeguard endangered species such as the Hawksbill



APPROXIMATELY 35 per cent of the world's wetlands were lost between 1970-2015 with annual rates of loss accelerating from 2000.

turtles and White-collared Kingfisher, but also offer ecotourism opportunities and scope to expedite our journey to sustainable development. They can also be part of the solution for climate change mitigation, due to their carbon sequestration abilities.

“The UAE became a Ramsar member state in 2007, and we are honoured to host COP13 this year in Dubai, and to help drive discussions on wetland preservation and management.”

Spanning a global area of 12.1

million square kilometres, an area nearly as large as Greenland, natural wetlands are disappearing at three times the rate of forests lost. Only 13-18 percent of them are on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, also known as Ramsar sites. The UAE is home to seven Ramsar sites, with many more set to gain this status.

The study highlights the rich economic value of services provided by wetlands that are a source of food supplies and freshwater. Wetlands have also regulating effects that influence

climate and hydrological regimes, thereby reducing pollution and disaster risks. For instance, coastal mangroves help to prevent land erosion and offer protection from tsunamis and cyclones.

Another beneficial impact of wetlands is the storage and sequestration of carbon, to help regulate the global climate. Peatlands and coastal wetlands are major carbon sinks, and can sequester millions of tons of carbon annually.

“The Global Wetland Outlook is a wake-up call – not only on the



steep rate of loss of the world's wetlands but also on the critical services they provide. Without them, the global agenda on sustainable development will not be achieved," said Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

"We need urgent collective action to reverse trends on wetland loss and degradation, and secure both the future of wetlands and our own at the same time," she added.

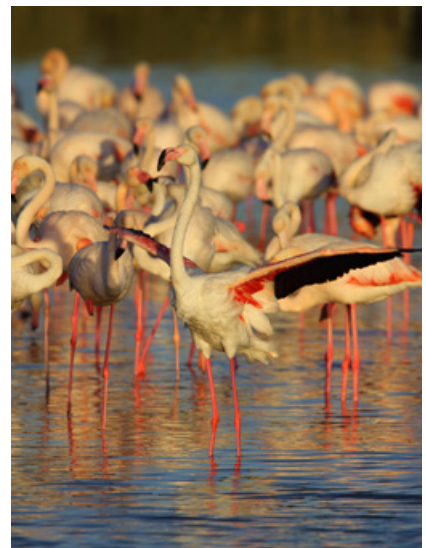
The Parties to the Ramsar Convention have committed to the conservation and wise use of all wetlands. Although they have designated more than 2,300 sites of international importance so far, making the Ramsar List one of the world's

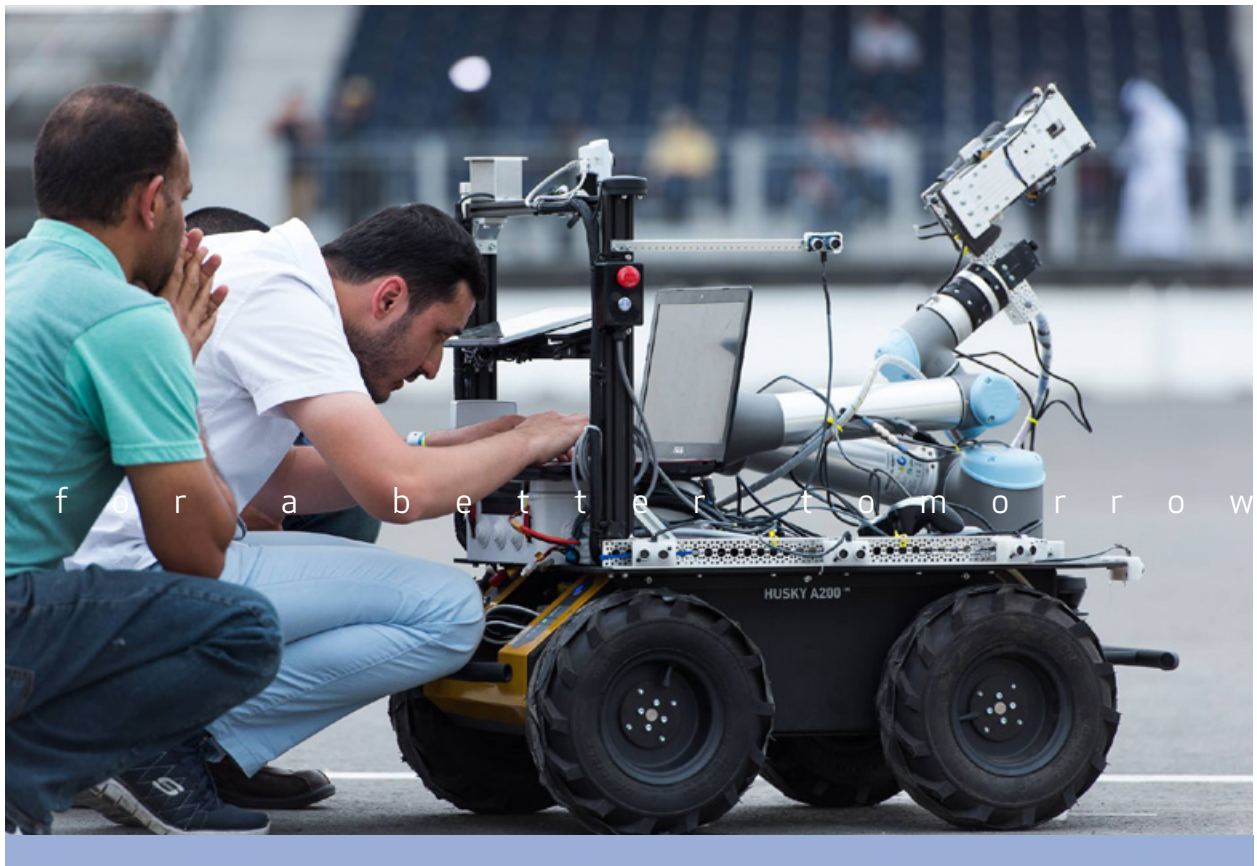
largest networks of protected areas, designating new sites for protection is not enough.

The report includes additional recommendations, such as identifying solutions for the responsible use of wetlands that draw upon all expertise – ranging from hard science to traditional knowledge – to secure wide engagement from all stakeholders on wetland protection and wise use, and to ensure sound decision-making.

"There is a slow awakening to the value of wetlands. Across the globe, legislative bodies need to integrate wetlands into policy programs and invest in their sustainability. We need to educate the world on the

critical importance of this most rapidly disappearing ecosystem. Without the world's wetlands, we all hang in the balance," Urrego concluded.





MBZIRC 2020 to focus on role of robots, AI in smart cities

Khalifa University has announced the hosting of the Mohamed bin Zayed International Robotics Challenge, MBZIRC, which will take place in February 2020. The upcoming edition will focus on the role of robotics and artificial intelligence as smart city solutions.

A biennial competition, MBZIRC seeks to provide an environment to foster innovation and technical excellence in robotics, while encouraging spectacular performance with robotic technologies.

The announcement was made during a press conference attended by Dr. Arif Sultan Al Hammadi, General Co-Chair of MBZIRC 2020 Steering

Committee and Executive Vice-President of Khalifa University, and Dr. Lakmal Seneviratne, Associate VP for Research and Director of Khalifa University Center for Autonomous Robotic Systems, KUCARS.

Regarding the competition, Dr. Al Hammadi said, "In line with global trends, the UAE is pioneering the application of artificial intelligence, AI, and robotics in smart city solutions. Some of the areas where robots are already in use in the UAE include healthcare, transport, education, banking and government services. Very soon, smart robots will offer access to more than 100 UAE government services at eight public entities. The country is also planning to use robots for security and

emergency response to prevent sabotage and security breaches, thus safeguarding critical infrastructure and strategic industry installations. At the same time, advanced robotic technology is also expected to facilitate and usher in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, while helping to reduce the reliance on foreign workers."

Entitled 'Tackling Challenges, Offering Solutions', MBZIRC 2020 will consist of three individual challenges and a triathlon style 'Grand Challenge', focusing on robotics solutions in smart city applications. Safely neutralising stray drones, construction automation, and urban fire-fighting will be the key challenge focus areas.

Nuclear Energy

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

UAE re-affirms commitments to developing nuclear programme to highest safety standards



[Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, UAE Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\), states that the UAE places utmost importance on maintaining the highest standards of nuclear safety.](#)

The UAE has re-affirmed its commitment to develop its national nuclear programme to the highest standards of safety, security, non-proliferation and transparency.

Addressing the 62nd session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference here, Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, commended the international agency's central role in supporting its Member States in their pursuit, development and sustainment of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and applications.

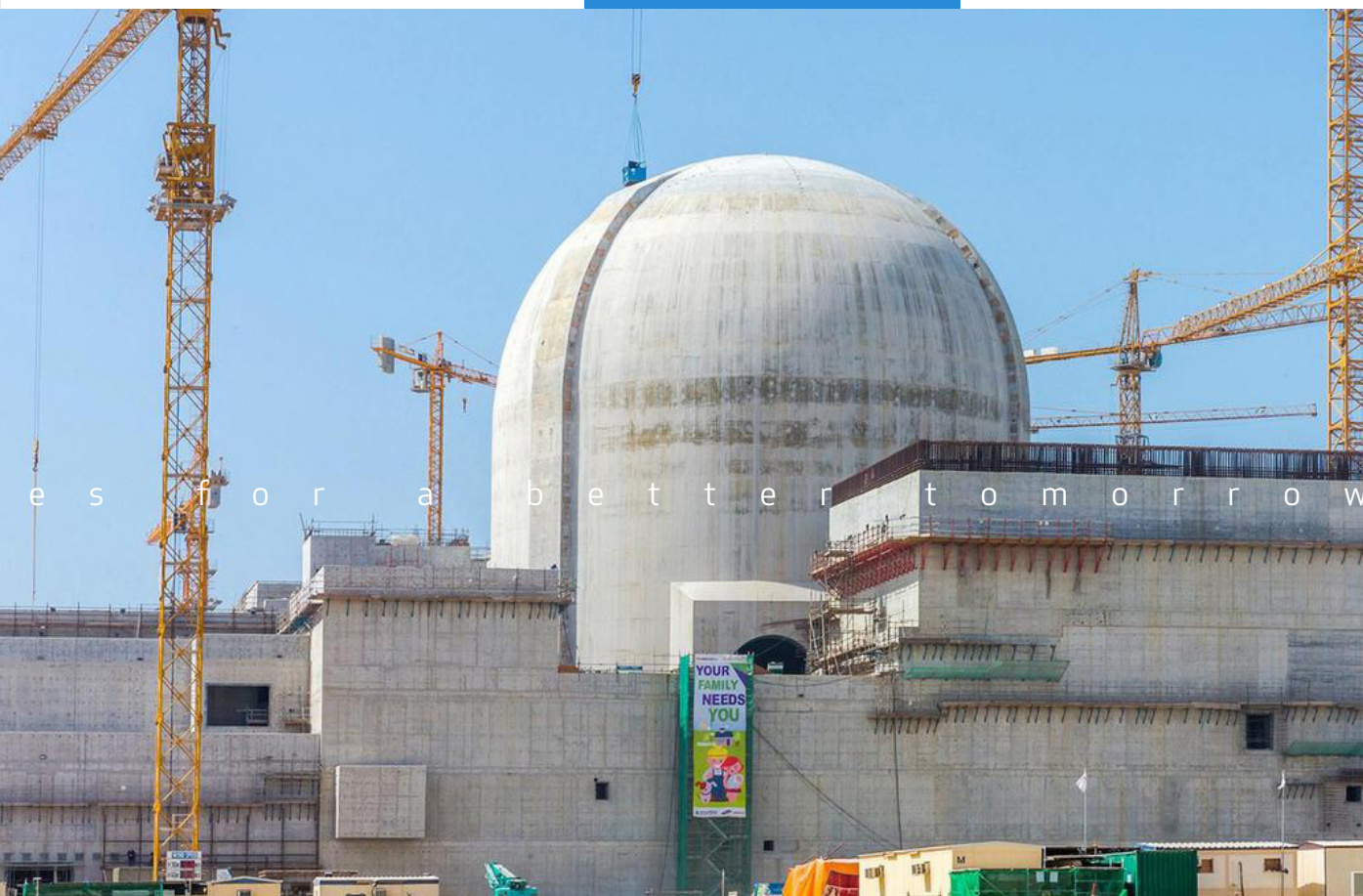
"The IAEA has a central role in supporting its Member States in their pursuit, development and sustainment of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and applications," he said. The ambassador noted that the UAE is of the view that nuclear power as a clean source of energy is an important factor to meet growing energy demand and to achieve sustainable development goals.

Last October, UAE hosted the 4th International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, in Abu Dhabi. The conference was successful

in highlighting challenges and prospects of nuclear power, and its essential role in mitigating climate change.

Alkaabi noted that the UAE is currently in the commissioning phase of its nuclear power programme, with construction of the first Unit at Barakah NPP now completed.

"Unit 2 is following closely at 93% completion; Unit 3 at 84% and Unit 4 at more than 75%. Barakah NPP construction and commissioning process is conducted in accordance with



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

THE UAE is currently in the commissioning phase of its nuclear power programme, with construction of the first Unit at Barakah NPP now completed

IAEA's guidance and international best practices, ensuring that Barakah NPP reflects the highest standards of operational safety, security, transparency and non-proliferation.

"In line with the UAE policy and commitments to develop the national nuclear programme to the highest standards of safety, security, non-proliferation and transparency, my country hosted 10 major IAEA peer review missions to date., most recently pre-OSART and INIR phase 3 missions. UAE encourages member states with existing or

future plans for nuclear power to benefit from IAEA peer review missions."

The IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme is an important channel for assistance to Member States, the ambassador added.

The IAEA has trained more than 5000 participants in various fields in the UAE in the past 10 years. It is important that the TC program receives the required support and funding to facilitate assistance to member states, which is at the core of the IAEA mandate.

"The UAE places utmost importance on maintaining the highest standards of nuclear safety. It has subscribed to all international conventions in this area, and participates actively in the review process of both the Convention on Nuclear Safety, as well as the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

"The UAE most recently submitted its Third National Report to the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention," he added.

Initiative

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

RAK's hotel recycling initiative saves tonnes of recyclable waste from landfills



Introduced in March 2016 by Ras Al Khaimah's Waste Management Agency (WMA), the Green Hotel scheme has resulted in 130 tonnes of waste materials being sorted and separated at source for recycling each month – up from an initial 60 tonnes per month.

The Ras al-Khaimah, RAK, Green Hotel scheme has recorded a 120 percent increase in the amount of recyclable waste that is being diverted from landfills each month since it was launched just over two years ago.

The environmental initiative, which was introduced in March 2016 by Ras al-Khaimah's Waste Management Agency, WMA, has resulted in 130 tonnes of waste materials being sorted and separated at the source for recycling each month – up from an initial 60 tonnes per month.

The WMA staff collect plastic, glass, cardboard, electronics and other recyclable waste from 26 hotels located throughout the UAE's northernmost emirate. Each hotel has more than 100 rooms.

Earlier this year, WMA set each of the properties participating in the Ras al-Khaimah Green Hotel scheme the goal of sorting and separating 30 percent of all recyclable rubbish and food waste.

As of 18th September, hotels have either reached or exceed this target, some hotels having an

impressive waste diversion rate of 70 percent.

The RAK Green Hotel scheme is part of the emirate's drive to reach the 2021 UAE National Target of diverting 75 percent of all recyclable waste from landfills and to reduce the amount of waste produced by each resident to just 1.5kg each day down from the current national average of 2.7kg.

The long-term goal of the Government of Ras al-Khaimah is to help every hotel in the emirate reach 100 percent sustainability to help promote



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

THE LONG-TERM goal of the Government of Ras al-Khaimah is to help every hotel in the emirate reach 100 percent sustainability

traditional tourism and to boost the development of RAK's growing eco-tourism sector.

The Public Service Department, PSD, in Ras al-Khaimah, represented by RAKWMA, along with RAK's Tourist Development Agency, conducts yearly inspections of the waste management practices of each hotel involved in the RAK Green Hotel scheme.

As a result, 10 of the 26 hotels have been categorised as having "excellent waste management practices", 13 have "good waste

management" while three hotels have "waste management practices that can be improved".

Ahmed Mohammed Al Hammadi, Director-General of the PSD said that these initiatives are in line with the national targets set by UAE Vision 2021.

Sonia Nasser, Executive Director of RAKWMA said, "The Waste Management Agency's 'Green Hotel Scheme' has been hugely successful since it was launched in 2016.

"With 26 of the largest hotels in

the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah participating in the initiative, and with the majority performing extremely well, we are confident of achieving even greater success in the future by diverting even more recyclable waste from going to landfills.

"The overall aim of the Government of Ras al-Khaimah and the Waste Management Agency is to improve recycling rates across the emirate and to raise the community's awareness of important sustainability initiatives to help preserve our natural environment," she said.

Report

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

Dubai reaffirms commitment to strengthen sustainability

Following the three-day C40 Steering Committee meeting in San Francisco, USA, Abdulla Mohammad Al Basti, Secretary-General of the Executive Council of Dubai, reaffirmed that Dubai continues to expend efforts in dealing with climate change issues and minimising waste and greenhouse gas emissions by innovating solutions that forestall future challenges.

This comes in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President,

Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and under the directives of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, which aim to create a sustainable environment that provides happiness and prosperity to UAE nationals, residents and visitors, and preserves the right of future generations to lead healthy and safe lives.

Al Basti also confirmed that tackling climate change issues tops the priorities of the government and is reflected in

Dubai's development plans and future strategies, such as the Dubai Plan 2021, Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy, Climate Change Adaptation Plan, as well as Dubai's Autonomous Transportation Strategy.

"Our leadership recognises the impact of climate change on the quality of life and calls for consolidating national efforts in taking preventative measures to mitigate its risks and minimise its ramifications on our ecosystem," he said, adding that Dubai's efforts build on the UAE's commitment to the Paris





THE 3RD edition of the Future Cities Show is set to take place on April 8-10, 2019 in Dubai, UAE.

Agreement and the objectives of the Dubai Plan 2021 to promote sustainability, rely on clean energy sources, protect natural resources and tackle climate change issues.

“This is reflected in emirate’s ambitious initiatives and development projects, which were launched to achieve economic growth while maintaining sustainability and preserving a clean environment,” Al Basti continued.

Members of the C40 Steering Committee discussed the most

significant achievements during the second quarter of 2018 and talked about future plans of the network. They also addressed the proposed commitments for cities to make including waste, renewable energy, zero-emission transport and making buildings net zero carbon.

The committee also addressed the goals of the network and the initiatives that have been launched to achieve them, such as the participation of city mayors and representatives in climate change adaptation programmes. Similarly, the

committee touched upon supporting cities in developing plans and goals for dealing with climate change and accelerating their success; through creating dual partnerships, eradicating obstacles and activating the role of the network on a global scale.

Off the back of the conference, and during a panel discussion, Al Basti stressed the efforts of Dubai in adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the objectives of the Dubai Plan 2021 to promote sustainability, use of clean energy sources and



protection of natural resources. Additionally, Al Basti provided an overview of Dubai's recent efforts in using behavioural science to strengthen environmental sustainability.

He explained that the government of Dubai launched several programmes designed to enhance behavioural efficiencies, in line with the emirate's plans to reduce energy and water demand by 30 percent by the year 2030. Namely, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, has launched a new programme, 'My Sustainable Living', that aims to motivate Dubai residents to improve their energy usage behaviours, Al Basti noted.

Al Basti also touched

upon Dubai's Autonomous Transportation Strategy, launched by the Road and Transport Authority, which aims to transform 25 percent of Dubai's total transportation solutions to autonomous transportation by 2030.

In 2015, Dubai joined the elite group of cities in the C40 Cities network for addressing climate change challenges. In 2017, Dubai nominated a representative from the General Secretariat of the Executive Council of Dubai for a membership in the Steering Committee of the C40 Cities network, which constitutes of 17 members representing different geographical areas. Dubai represents 11 cities across

South and West Asia, leading the efforts in tackling challenges that are taking over the world and affecting climate change.

Since joining the C40, Dubai has participated in several global workshops, conferences and forums to convey its experiences and success stories in the field of sustainable infrastructure, climate change, waste reduction and green-house gas emissions.





UAE, Italy sign sustainable development cooperation agreement

On the sidelines of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAEE) and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the area of sustainable development.

The agreement, inked by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Sergio Costa, Italian Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea, will reinforce synergies between the two countries in the fields of climate action and environmental sustainability. The MoU mandates the UAE and Italy to formulate

and implement policies to support economic diversification and sustainable development.

In addition, the two countries will identify and leverage new opportunities and tools to achieve sustainability in urban planning and land development, construction, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and resource-efficient and clean production.

Other areas of collaboration covered in the agreement include the adoption of practical solutions in sustainable farming, fisheries, food processing, landscaping, biodiversity conservation in hyper-arid environments, tourism, air quality and noise monitoring and

control, chemicals management and waste management. The two countries also resolved to encourage the participation of the private sector in climate action through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Speaking on the MoU, Dr Al Zeyoudi said: "As parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, our two countries realize that collective action has great advantages in the fight against climate change."

The Italian minister said, "With this MoU, Italy and the UAE set out on a common path to achieve the shared goal of environmental sustainability."

Agriculture

50 creating green community

EPAA celebrates Arab Agriculture Day



The Arab Agriculture Day event was aimed at increasing awareness about the UAE's local plants and reduce the consumption of groundwater, highlight local plants and their benefits to the environment in comparison to other ornamental plants that harm the environment with their high consumption of groundwater.

Sharjah's Environment and Protected Areas Authority, EPAA, recently organised an event for the Arab Agriculture Day in the botanical section of the Natural History & Botanical Museum.

The Day is marked on 27th September every year.

The event, held under the theme "Local Plants are the Solution to Sustaining our Groundwater", was aimed at visitors to the museum. The visitors enjoyed the event and expressed their appreciation to the EPAA for its efforts

to protect and preserve the environment, and for promoting environmental awareness through a variety of programmes, events and activities.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, EPAA Chairperson, said, "We are keen to celebrate Arab Agriculture Day, which has been an important day since September 27th 1972, when the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, AOAD, began its work as the first Arab organisation concerned with the development of the agricultural sector in implementation of an Arab League resolution. EPAA

has been celebrating this day since then, each time. We choose a topic related to agricultural development and food security issues, and that becomes the theme for the day's activities."

Al Suwaidi pointed out that the environment in the UAE is characterised by a wide diversity of trees, shrubs, and plants, most of which are aesthetically pleasing.

The streets, squares and gardens in the UAE are decorated with plants that are suitable for the environmental conditions,



THE EVENT was held under the theme,
“Local Plants are the Solution to
Sustaining our Groundwater”.

specifically in terms of temperature, water salinity, water consumption, and the need for care.

“It is important to pay attention to the plants that beautify the roads and streets, I must also mention the great care and attention with which H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, established the Protected Areas, the seed bank for the conservation of perennial plants and trees, the Desert Botanical Garden, and the annual afforestation program at Manthar

Reserve,” she said.

Al Suwaidi explained that the Arab Agriculture Day event was aimed at increasing awareness about the UAE’s local plants and reduce the consumption of groundwater, highlight local plants and their benefits to the environment in comparison to other ornamental plants that harm the environment with their high consumption of groundwater.

Hisa Al-Shamsi, in-charge of Museum of Natural History and Botany said, “The event included a display comparing local plants

to other ornamental plants, a botanical frame, information stands, local plants that can be used as roadside decoration, and a workshop on plants that survive in a desert environment.”

Agriculture is the world’s oldest and most important discovery. The Agricultural Revolution was a significant time period that changed people’s lives.

The discovery of agriculture allowed humans to make significant changes that led to improved health and food and better living conditions.

UAE organises youth dialogue in New York



The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment hosted a youth dialogue in collaboration with Facebook on the sidelines of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly.

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) organised a youth dialogue in collaboration with Facebook on the sidelines of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 73) where the Sustainable UAE campaign to educate the UAE public about sustainability was launched.

The event aimed to underscore the role of youth in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Speaking at the event, Dr Al Zeyoudi said, "In the

UAE, we firmly believe young people are the greatest change agents and the strongest citizen diplomats, therefore we place particular emphasis on youth engagement. In this context, I am pleased to mark the international launch of the Emirates Youth Climate Strategy, developed by the Youth Council at MOCCA with the goal of empowering the UAE's youth to participate in climate action."

Providing an integrated framework for the young generation, based on future opportunities, priorities and

needs, the strategy seeks to develop youth environmental leadership skills through a host of programs and activities in partnership with local and international stakeholders.

Dr Al Zeyoudi added, "We extended invitations to two global youth leaders and five female leaders to share their sustainability experiences at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), set to run in January 2019."

Furthermore, the minister announced the launch of the Sustainable UAE campaign,



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

THE EVENT aimed to underscore the role of youth in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

a one-year-long nationwide initiative rolled out by MOCCAIE to educate the UAE public about sustainability. The campaign will culminate in the production of an entertaining and informative documentary that brands the UAE as a country committed to sustainable development.

Under the initiative, the Ministry has already introduced Globally Great (www.globallygreat.com), a powerful video platform that features inspiring sustainability stories about the UAE and game-changing global innovations. The website hosts the first online

global innovation award in the UAE that invites companies and countries to participate through uploading their inspirational videos. The winner will benefit from direct access to investors in the UAE and an opportunity to present their innovations during the next edition of ADSW.

Held at the Facebook headquarters in New York, the dialogue convened youth representatives from New York, government officials and business leaders, including Brune Poirson, the French State Secretary for Ecological Transition,

Edward Palmieri, Director of Sustainability, Facebook, and Adnan Amin, Director General, IRENA along with Majid Al Suwaidi, UAE Consul-General in New York, and Dr. Nawal Al Hosani, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IRENA



Campaign

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

Yas Mall replaces
20,000 plastic bags
in eco-initiative



Shoppers are being encouraged to reduce plastic waste under the Rethink Plastic campaign that was launched in Abu Dhabi to increase awareness of the devastating effects of plastic pollution.

Yas Mall, Abu Dhabi's largest mall, has collected over 20,000 plastic bags, exchanging them with eco-friendly shopping bags, as part of their 4-day Rethink Plastic campaign with Emirates Nature, World Wildlife Fund WWF and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), which aims to reduce unnecessary plastic waste.

The Rethink Plastic campaign was launched to increase awareness of the devastating effects of plastic pollution, as, each year, more than 8 million tons of plastic enter oceans, causing the death of

over 100,000 marine animals and 1 million marine birds.

Yas Mall aims to reduce visitor's reliance on disposable bags, that are used on average for 13 minutes but have a disastrous impact on the environment when discarded. Although it takes a small action, Yas Mall has offered free complimentary enviro-friendly canvas to shoppers who make a video pledge to reduce plastic waste, and by symbolically giving up their plastic bags to show their commitment. Also, by refusing single-use plastic bags at store tills each day this can make

an enormous difference to the safety of the UAE's wildlife and the beauty of the natural world. Therefore, whenever it comes to shopping, Yas Mall encourages its visitors, that whichever bag they choose, always remember to re-use.

To continue ongoing usage of the enviro-friendly bags, Yas Mall will run random "spot the bag and win" promotions which will offer shoppers a chance to instantly win an AED 250 bio-degradable Yas Mall Gift Card- simply for re-using their canvas bag on their next shopping trip.



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

MAKING SMALL changes to our daily habits, like shopping with a re-usable bag, can help prevent plastic pollution.

Most plastic bags are made up of polyethylene, which is non-biodegradable. Therefore, Bee'ah, Yas Mall's waste management partner for the Rethink Plastic campaign, makes it a priority to collect and recycle these plastic bags. The collected bags are taken to the company's specialized Material Recovery Facility at Al Saj'ah in Sharjah; which recycles an average of 37.50 million plastic bags every month. This state-of-the-art facility has advanced technology like optical sorters, which use sensors and air jets to separate the bags from mixed waste streams, based on their

density. The separated bags are processed and baled, before being supplied to local and international companies. The bags are then processed further into plastic pellets, that can be used to make new bags, toys, bottles and numerous other products.

Another successful part of this campaign was the announcement of Yas Mall's sponsorship of two turtles, as part of a research project with Emirates Nature-WWF. The project aims to track the journey of multiple marine turtles around the Gulf, as the sea creatures act as an indicator of the

health of our marine environment, helping researchers with the goal of deciphering their migration paths, therefore conserving endangered marine turtles and critical marine habitats in the UAE and wider region.



Exhibition

56 creating digital green communities

3rd Future Cities Show to facilitate global investments in smart city solutions



The Future Cities Show is a great platform for local and international institutions from various industries to showcase their latest technologies which redefine the way we live.

The race to become the world's first smart city has become more exciting with recent and wider applications of disruptive technologies. The building blocks for smart cities will be showcased at the Future Cities Show on April 8-10, 2019 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

With the theme 'Propelling Globalization through Digital Transformation', FCS will support the growth of smart city solutions such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, smart mobility, smart infrastructure, and sustainability as catalysts in achieving a healthy

global digital economy. It will do so by providing the platform for homegrown and international technological innovation to attract scalable investments.

Dawood Al Shezawi, Head, FCS Organizing Committee, said, "Smart city solutions will change the way we live. These disruptive technologies will tip the balance between increased efficiency and stagnant productivity. However, they need access to a strong network of business partners, which FCS will provide."

Host emirate - Dubai, leads the

technological revolution in the region by establishing Smart Dubai as the lead government agency to propel the city to become the world's first blockchain-powered government by 2020. Additionally, the city aims to become the world's hub for 3D printing, and to reach 25% driverless transportation by the year 2025.

Dubai's futuristic vision is shared globally. International governments, cities, and corporations have new age technological innovation ideas, but they need to pull in



THE 3RD edition of the Future Cities Show is set to take place on April 8-10, 2019 in Dubai, UAE.

investments to harness the full potential of their smart city infrastructure and its relevance- from technology base to special application, public usage, and experience.. The 3rd edition of FCS bridges this gap by linking them with investors who are keen to support creative ideas using disruptive technology during the three-day exclusive event. The event anticipates participants from over 20 countries.

FCS encourages the participation of countries, cities, and corporations with smart city solutions that involve the use

of Artificial Intelligence in its application. These projects address the challenges of technology adoption by multiple sectors including agriculture, call centers, customer experience, energy and mining, healthcare, intellectual property, information and communication, technology, manufacturing, retail, and software development. Investment in AI is expected to reach USD 89.9 billion by 2025 worldwide, with growing investment interest in quantum computing. This will enable faster processing of larger complex algorithms.

Blockchain, or digitization of asset management, has been attracting investment interests with an anticipated global investment reaching USD 300 billion.

Among the sectors benefiting from blockchain ideas are banking and financial institutions, critical infrastructure security, internet advertising, crypto exchanges, education and academia, industrial IoT, real estate, supply chain management, government and public records, retail, human resources, law enforcement, business, and corporate governance.



Tadweer conducts awareness campaign on proper waste collection practices

Abu Dhabi Waste Management Centre, Tadweer, has launched a two-month awareness campaign to educate farm owners and workers on the most suitable methods of collection and disposal of farm waste.

Running from September to December 2018, the campaign includes field visits to several farms in Al Wathba, Al Bahia, Al Ajban, Al Khatim, Al Taiba, Al Razeen and Al Wafiya areas. During the visits, Tadweer's personnel will distribute booklets in four different languages to educate farm owners and workers on public health risks associated with the pile-up of waste in farms including disease outbreaks.

The centre has also planned workshops for farm owners and workers during the upcoming Al Dhafra Camel Festival.

Commenting on the campaign, Dr. Salem Al Kaabi, Acting Director-General of Recycling at Tadweer, said, "This campaign is aligned with our vision to become a world leader in sustainable waste management and pest control by 2030. In achieving this priority, it reinforces Tadweer's commitment to maintaining the cleanliness and aesthetic appeal of the emirate of Abu Dhabi through adopting the highest international standards in integrated waste management."

"We are educating farm owners and workers about

the imperative need to ensure regular pest controlling at farms to prevent the spread of diseases. Farm workers can gain an understanding of the safest ways of disposing of agricultural and green waste in order to protect their own health and well-being and preserve Abu Dhabi's environment," he added.

The campaign seeks to prevent the pollution caused by random dumping of farm waste and dead animals on streets which poses a serious health and environmental hazard. Furthermore, Tadweer plans to host a series of training sessions in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Farmers' Services Centre, offering useful tips on maintaining the general cleanliness of farms.



UAE Air Quality Index launched on MOCCA app

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), in collaboration with Khalifa University of Science and Technology, has launched the UAE Air Quality Index (UAE AQI) on MOCCA's smart application. The index displays real-time readings of the satellite-monitored air quality index (AQI) across the UAE.

The UAE AQI employs cutting-edge technologies in live monitoring of air quality and, by using specific algorithms, it forecasts the AQI status for up to three days in advance, in addition to predicting the concentration of dust and particulate matters with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5).

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said: "Air pollution is arguably one of the most important concerns around the world today and has a serious impact on human health and the environment. That is why the quality of the air we breathe is a key issue highlighted in the National Agenda of the UAE Vision 2021. The agenda aims to raise the air quality from its current level to 90 percent by 2021.

"Knowledge is power. We believe that through providing the public with access to real-time AQI readings and calculated forecasts, they can make informed decisions to help the nation achieve its targets. The

UAE AQI is also in line with the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence."

There are currently 41 stations monitoring air quality across the UAE. The satellite readings will complement the output of these stations and result in highly accurate and reliable data.

The AQI is based on the concentration of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5). To ensure that the data can be understood by the public, pollutant values have been color coded. The daily AQI indicates the color, value (ranging from 0 - 500) and the dominating air pollutant that is affecting the ambient air quality.

Renewable Energy

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

US\$34.5 million confirmed in grants under UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund



Caribbean to benefit from US \$34.5 million grant for climate resilience from United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has confirmed that the UAE is proceeding with grants totalling US\$34.5 million (AED126.7 million) to fund renewable energy projects in the Caribbean that are built to withstand Category-5 hurricanes and located for enhanced resilience.

This amount builds on \$15 million of projects announced last year as part of the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy under Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister

of State for International Cooperation.

The announcement was made at the second annual Bloomberg Global Business Forum, held on the sidelines of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, USA, where Minister Al Zeyoudi was invited to speak in the climate segment with President Bill Clinton and Kristalina Georgieva, CEO of the World Bank.

Addressing the forum, Minister Al Zeyoudi said, "The UAE is honoured to have partnered with

over 30 island countries since 2013 to implement renewable energy projects that reduce energy costs and create jobs.

"Today's announcement on our partnership in the Caribbean builds on this legacy, simultaneously expanding our cooperation into climate resilience."

"Hurricanes Irma and Maria were a wake-up call for us," Minister Al Zeyoudi added. "We realised that the kind of projects we pursue had to change. As a result, we have implemented a resilience



UAE FOREIGN aid for renewable energy
has reached nearly \$1 billion since 2013.

standard for all of our Caribbean projects that reflects the reality of climate vulnerability in the region. Inspired by this precedent, we are now preparing for global roll-out of a resilience standard across over \$5 billion of annual aid from the UAE.”

The Minister described plans for 7 new projects in Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia.

He also announced that the UAE had increased its allocation by 50% to the rebuilding of

the Barbuda power system, devastated by Hurricane Irma, in order to relocate and strengthen its main plant, where a solar and battery solution will be installed.

The Minister additionally announced that the UAE will allocate \$12 million for the next cycle of the fund, to be launched in January 2019 at the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

In tandem with the Bloomberg Global Business Forum, Minister Al Zeyoudi also participated in the One Planet Summit organized

by President Emmanuel Macron of France. The UAE is a core member of a sovereign wealth fund working group on carbon accounting, announced under the summit.

UAE foreign aid for renewable energy has reached nearly \$1 billion since 2013. In addition to the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund, the UAE notably has launched the US\$50 million UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund, which has implemented projects in 11 Pacific island countries, and runs a \$350 million soft loan facility with IRENA.

Renewable Energy

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

Čibuk 1 wind farm in Serbia reaches key construction milestone



Čibuk 1 has reached a number of key milestones and is on schedule to start production in early 2019.

A collaboration between Masdar, Taaleri Energia and the German development finance institution DEG to develop the largest utility-scale commercial wind project in Serbia has successfully reached a number of key milestones, and is on schedule to start production early next year.

Čibuk 1 in Dolovo, situated 50km outside the capital Belgrade, has completed the construction of 33 overhead pylons allowing for the energisation of the wind farm's substation, its connection to existing transmission lines 11km

away, and the handover of the transmission operation building to its operator.

Comprising 57 wind turbines supplied by GE Renewable Energy, the 158-megawatt (MW) wind farm is expected to provide electricity to 113,000 homes and displace more than 370,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. To date, 52 of the wind turbines have been fully assembled.

Vetroelektrane Balkana (WEBG), the project company behind Čibuk 1, is wholly owned by Tesla Wind, a joint venture between Masdar

(60%), Taaleri Energia (30%), and DEG (10%).

Ahmed Al Awadi, General Manager, Tesla Wind, said: "We have made significant progress on Čibuk 1, which covers an area of 37 square kilometres, most notably with the recent energisation of the substation to the existing transmission system. We are on schedule to have the wind farm operational next year as planned."

"We are delivering this project to the highest standards," he added. "Čibuk 1 is a prime example



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

ON COMPLETION, Čibuk 1 will be Masdar's fourth wind farm in Europe.

of how Masdar, together with Taaleri and DEG, is advancing the development of commercially viable solutions in renewable energy around the world backed by our extensive technical expertise and experience."

The power purchase agreement (PPA) for Čibuk 1 was signed in October 2016. Serbia has pledged to produce 27 per cent of its domestic power needs from renewable energy sources by 2020, reducing the country's dependence on coal-fired power generation in line with European Union regulations.

On completion, Čibuk 1 will be Masdar's fourth wind farm in Europe after the 630MW London Array, currently the world's largest offshore wind farm in operation; the 402MW Dudgeon offshore wind farm in England; and the 30MW Hywind Scotland, the world's first commercial-scale floating wind project, which is situated off the coast of Aberdeenshire.

Masdar is a leading developer and operator of utility-scale, grid-tied projects; small-scale applications providing energy access to communities away from

the electricity grid; and carbon abatement projects. Masdar's renewable energy projects are located in the UAE, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, the UK, Spain, Serbia and Montenegro. Masdar is Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company, which works to advance the development, commercialisation and deployment of clean energy technologies and solutions. The company serves as a link between today's fossil fuel economy and the energy economy of the future and is dedicated to fulfilling the UAE's long-term vision for the future of energy and water.



Bill Gates thanks UAE for role in the fight to end world poverty

The philanthropist Bill Gates has thanked the UAE for its support in working to eliminate deadly diseases and reduce world poverty.

Mr Gates was speaking on the eve of the launch of the 2018 Goalkeepers Report, produced by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and which measures progress towards goals for sustainable development by 2030 set by the United Nations three years ago.

In an interview with The National, Gates said the foundation was “extremely thankful for the generosity of the UAE, including the ruling family, the government and a lot of organisations there.” He said the UAE’s support was

crucial not just because of the large sums of money it had committed to disease elimination and vaccination programmes, but because its strong regional role meant it was able to engage the support of other governments.

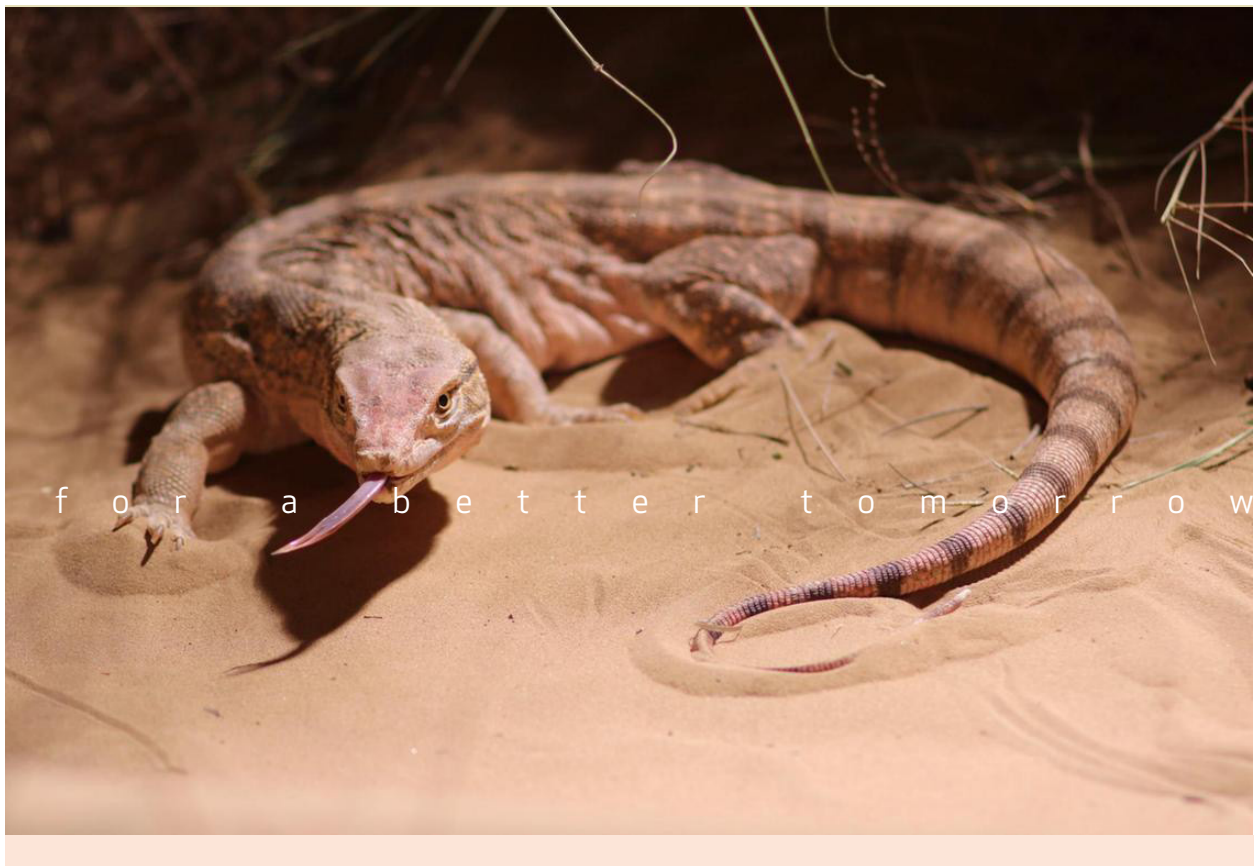
He cited Pakistan and Afghanistan, where the UAE has been active in vaccination campaigns working to eliminate the last clusters of polio in some of the most remote tribal regions.

“There’s an effort there to draw on the entire region and the voice of that region where on issues like the polio campaign, the strong relationships both up into Pakistan and Afghanistan, and relationships going down into

some of the countries in Africa have been very helpful in getting to religious leaders and getting the focus from the political leaders on these health issues,” he said.

This is the second Goalkeepers report, with the name referring to leaders in the public and private sector who are committed eliminating poverty and hunger, achieving better health and education, providing clean and affordable energy and improving the environment.

The United Nations has set out 17 Sustainable Development Goals in these areas, and others, including gender equality and water quality, that it wants to achieve by 2030.



Wildlife Documentary, 'Wild Dubai', to premiere this month

A new one-off documentary from Discovery Channel titled 'Wild Dubai' will examine the diverse array of wildlife that Dubai is home to.

The documentary, which was produced for Discovery by UK-based Plimsoll Productions, reveals that the global metropolis is also a natural home for a range of unique animal species, and will premiere in the Middle East exclusively on OSN.

'Wild Dubai' explores the vast – often hidden – wildlife of the largest city in the United Arab Emirates, as it journeys through the traditions of camel racing and falconry, reflecting the impact of heritage on the commitment to protect the wider environment

and its wildlife.

"Discovery Channel has long been committed to telling the stories of and shining a light on the people and places that make our planet extraordinary. This documentary will reveal a side to Dubai never seen before and reinforce Discovery's ongoing commitment to raise awareness about the ways in which we can protect and care for our wildlife and ecosystems," said Amanda Turnbull, Vice President & General Manager, Discovery Middle East and Africa.

"This project has been such a joy," explained Dr. Martha Holmes, Executive Producer at Plimsoll Productions. "I'd anticipated the beauty and tranquillity of the

desert, but I've been surprised and delighted by the incredible diversity of life here and the variety of habitats. It's been a real eye-opener and I want the audience to experience the same sense of wonder that I enjoyed while making the film."

Given the global appeal of the bustling city, 'Wild Dubai' will also air internationally in several markets across Europe, Africa and Asia on Discovery's network of channels, following the Middle East premiere.

Discover a different side of Dubai when 'Wild Dubai' premieres this October on Discovery Channel, exclusively on OSN channel 500, and on OSN Play and On Demand for catch up viewing.



International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October)

Last year, the USA alone spent more than \$300 billion to clean up the aftermath of 16 major weather and climate events which included one drought, two floods, one freeze event, eight severe storms, three tropical cyclones, and one wildfire. During the period 1950-2005, the loss of human lives was estimated at 1.7 million, while economic loss was around 1.7 trillion dollars.

This year, natural disasters have been devastating different regions of the world at an alarming rate. Almost every month we see earthquakes demolishing whole cities, wildfires burning vast areas of forest, and cyclones causing overwhelming floods, violent rains and massive property damage. Since the beginning of 2018, the USA experienced at least three major floods in California, Nevada & Washington State in addition to

storms, hurricanes and forest fires. Floods struck 7 African countries plus Australia and Sri Lanka. On the other hand, cold waves swept over the coasts and inland of North America and Western Europe.

In July, heavy rain and landslides in Japan killed 81 people and many remained missing after rescuing 2000 people from flooded river banks. A further 2 million people were evacuated from several districts in expectation of landslides. A heat wave in Quebec, Canada, killed at least 57 people in one week due to lack of air conditioning facilities in homes, while mid & eastern Canada went through very difficult weather conditions. Most of the victims are the old and sick, especially those living in poor conditions.

Recently on October 9th, flash floods and mudslides struck 5 central American countries killing 11 people. Earthquakes and volcanoes struck Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Guatemala, Hawaii and Iceland.

Moreover, these disasters may cause damage to sensitive installations such as oil fields, chemical plants, sewage treatment plants or even nuclear power plants that can release harmful pollutants. This pollution will cause more damage and even further global warming and instability in the atmosphere that lead to more disasters. Also, a recent study found that heavy rains and floods can cause earthquakes and volcanoes as the water penetrates deep into earth cracks. Earthquakes and volcanoes, in turn, can lead to destructive tsunamis which can cause even more flooding and damage. Hence, the planet can get trapped in a vicious cycle of disasters leading to more disasters.

The impact of natural disasters is merciless and immeasurable. High death tolls and property damage leave civilians in grief and inevitably cause political, social, and economic instability, amplifying the tragedy.

The spiraling number and severity of natural disasters are directly related to global warming. This is clearly indicated by the higher temperatures of the Earth's surface and atmosphere recorded every month in the last 20 years, associated with ever increasing rates and severity of devastating hurricanes and tropical storms.

Some natural disasters way back in history almost ended life on Earth. This is why it is vitally important to keep an eye on natural disasters and to consider the important environmental factors causing them.

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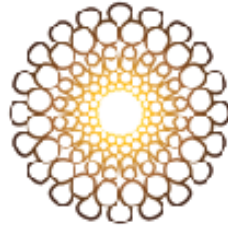
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