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18th Liwa Date Festival Hosts
23 Main Competitions, Awards 293 Prizes



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Volkswagen's First Fully Electric Sedan:
World Premiere Of ID. AERO



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Chairman's Message

The Founding Father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, had once said: "Give me agriculture, and I will give you civilization".

Today, as the Liwa Date Festival completes its 18th edition, we bear witness to how the practice of agriculture amongst members of the community is strengthening both food security and the national economy while also enhancing sustainable agricultural production.

Under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE continues to accord food security a great priority in its development plans. The UAE's investments in knowledge, innovation, and scientific research have been instrumental in finding advanced solutions to boost agriculture and increase productivity.

The Liwa Date Festival highlighted how the UAE has nurtured date palm cultivation over the years enabling it to thrive and flourish while giving due consideration to



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

the ecologically delicate role of the oasis system in conserving biological diversity. Some of the oases in the UAE have been formally recognised by the UN as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) sites for their importance as repositories of genetic resources, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

Under its wise leadership, the UAE is further intensifying efforts to further develop the dates industry with new developments in date palm cultivation, post-harvest processing, and the utilization of the trees' by-products.

For the UAE and around the region, date palms represent more than simply food; they are an integral part of our history, culture, and heritage. Today, the UAE is among the largest dates producing countries worldwide and the use of the latest scientific and technological methods has led to a fast growth in the number of palm trees and a continued increase in the size and variety of date production.

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PUBLISHED BY



Executive Director
Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

Advisors
Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Marketing
marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Editor
Sangeetha K
editor@zayedprize.org.ae
mail@zayedprize.org.ae

Design Director
Nash - Intoto Marketing
Communications
editor@zayedprize.org.ae

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UN warns of toxic environmental legacy for Ukraine and the region



Upcoming events

Changing Public Behaviours to Fight Food Waste

Date: August 10 - 11

Online event

This capacity-building and knowledge-sharing workshop is the first in a two-part series highlighting and advancing work on food waste in cities across countries in the Americas. It is co-organized and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and World Wildlife Fund.

The workshops aim to facilitate the exchange of tools, approaches and experiences in reducing food waste at city-level, focusing on behaviour change and circularity, helping participants to map opportunities and take action.

Land-use Planning In The MENA Region

Date: August 25

Webinar

This webinar describes steps in the development and implementation of land-use planning methodologies, taking into consideration the ecological, social and economic context and challenges within each case study.

This webinar will feature case studies from Lebanon and other parts of the region.

Africa Climate Week 2022

Date: August 29 - September 2

Location: Libreville, Gabon

Africa Climate Week 2022 will engage and empower stakeholders to drive climate action across countries, communities and economies.

ACW 2022 is a collaboration platform to explore resilience against climate risks, the transition to a low-emission economy, and partnerships to solve pressing challenges.

The event is organized by UN Climate Change in collaboration with global partners UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme and the World Bank Group. Partners in the region include the Africa Union, the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UN Gabon.

18th Liwa Date Festival Welcomes Visitors For First Time Since 2019

The Liwa Date Festival, an annual extravaganza of date-related events, competitions and cultural activities, welcomed visitors for the first time since 2019.

The two previous celebrations of Emirati heritage were closed to the public because of the Covid-19 pandemic and only featured participants.



Cultural extravaganza celebrated from July 16 – 24 after being closed to the public for two years

Held in Liwa, Al Dhafra, this year's festival ran from July 16 to 24 and enabled members of the public to learn about the most popular varieties of dates grown in the UAE.

Under the patronage of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, the 18th edition of the Liwa Date Festival was held in the city of Liwa, Al Dhafra Region in Abu Dhabi, and was organised by the Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee-Abu Dhabi.

The 18th edition included 23 main competitions and 293 prizes with a total value of AED 8.3 million. The event also featured a host of other attractions such as a folklore market showcasing traditional crafts, theatre activities, and several other interesting activities for people of all age groups.

The 18th edition included 23 main competitions and 293 prizes with a total value of AED 8.3 million



Emirati heritage

Date palms are a revered part of Emirati heritage. The versatile date palm and its fruit have fulfilled the dietary and other needs of generations of desert communities. The date fruit is highly nutritious, while the trunk, fronds and other parts of the tree were traditionally used in buildings, in handicrafts and tools.

The Liwa Date Festival highlights these important attributes of the date palm. It also features the latest in agricultural practices and facilitates exchange of expertise on the best ways to produce the highest quality dates.

The festival is one of Abu Dhabi's most significant heritage events and tourist attractions and highlights the many ways in which dates have impacted the cultural, heritage and economic life of the country. It provides a great place for

visitors to learn about dates and to sample the most popular date varieties grown in the UAE.

The festival's main event is the competition for the 'Best Date Fruit'. Emirati farms vie for the title of 'Best Date Grower'. There also are date auctions, where dates can sell for more than AED 6,000 (USD 1,650) per kilo; lectures on date farming; poetry evenings; and an exhibition space for farming equipment and date products.

The event, now in its 18th year, aims to support date palm farmers, promote sustainable agriculture and bolster food security.

Hamdan bin Zayed visit

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region, hailed the directives and support of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the



Liwa Date Festival as it is one of the most important heritage festivals that celebrate the palm dates and has succeeded in occupying a distinguished position on the map of heritage festivals.

Sheikh Hamdan said that the festival's continuous success emphasised the right approach adopted by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and sustained by the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to enhance the agricultural sector and care given to the palm trees which symbolises life and giving.

He also highlighted the huge turnout of farmers, participants from the government departments, and companies which reflected cooperation, harmony and innovation.

During his visit, Sheikh Hamdan toured a number of government and private pavilions which

showcase the latest developments and modern technologies used in the cultivation of palm trees, vegetables, fruits and other foodstuffs. He was also briefed about a number of other competitions.

Ratab Al Khalas competition winners

The 18th Liwa Date Festival witnessed strong competition among the producers of Ratab Al Khalas (half-ripe) dates (open category) and Ratab Al Khalas dates for farms in Al Ain region category. The winners were announced in a ceremony attended by Issa Saif Al Mazrouei, Deputy-Chairman of the Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee-Abu Dhabi, Obaid Khalfan Al Mazrouei, Festival Director, and Mubarak Ali Al Qusaili Al Mansouri, Date Retailer at the Festival.

The festival's organising committee allocated a total of 25 prizes worth AED446,000 for Ratab

The versatile date palm and its fruit have fulfilled the dietary and other needs of generations of desert communities



Al Khalas retailers (open), as well as 25 prizes worth AED446,000 for Ratab Al Khalas from the Al Ain region.

Several officials visited the festival to explore the date competitions, where they were briefed by Obaid Al Mazrouei about the festival. They also visited the festival's various pavilions and sections, including the committee's pavilion.

Alternative markets, additional channels for buying excess dates, were recently announced to help date farmers and producers enter local and international markets to sell their products.

6th Al Dhaid Date Festival concludes

Organised by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) from July 21 to 24, the 6th Al Dhaid Date Festival drew more than 30,000 visitors, who explored and learned about the best

and finest types of dates. The event was held under the theme "The Aroma of The Past... The Blossoming Present."

Cash prizes worth AED1 million were distributed over the course of four days to 145 lucky winners of the festival's six beauty contests, for which hundreds of farmers competed to display the best types of local dates and fruits from the UAE, especially Sharjah.

The organisers emphasised that all efforts would be taken to promote and preserve the historical status of palm trees and develop the palm plantation sector to ensure its sustainability. This is fulfilled by boosting the momentum of competitions, and offering guidance to farmers to inspire them to use good production techniques for dates and raise the quality of their yield.

Dubai To Host 8th World Green Economy Summit In September

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) are organising the 8th World Green Economy Summit (WGES) on September 28 and 29 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The WGES will be held in conjunction with the 24th Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and Dubai Solar Show (DSS).



The summit annually attracts several local and international VIPs, including heads of state and government leaders, in addition to a large number of international speakers, officials, representatives of government institutions, media representatives, experts and academics.

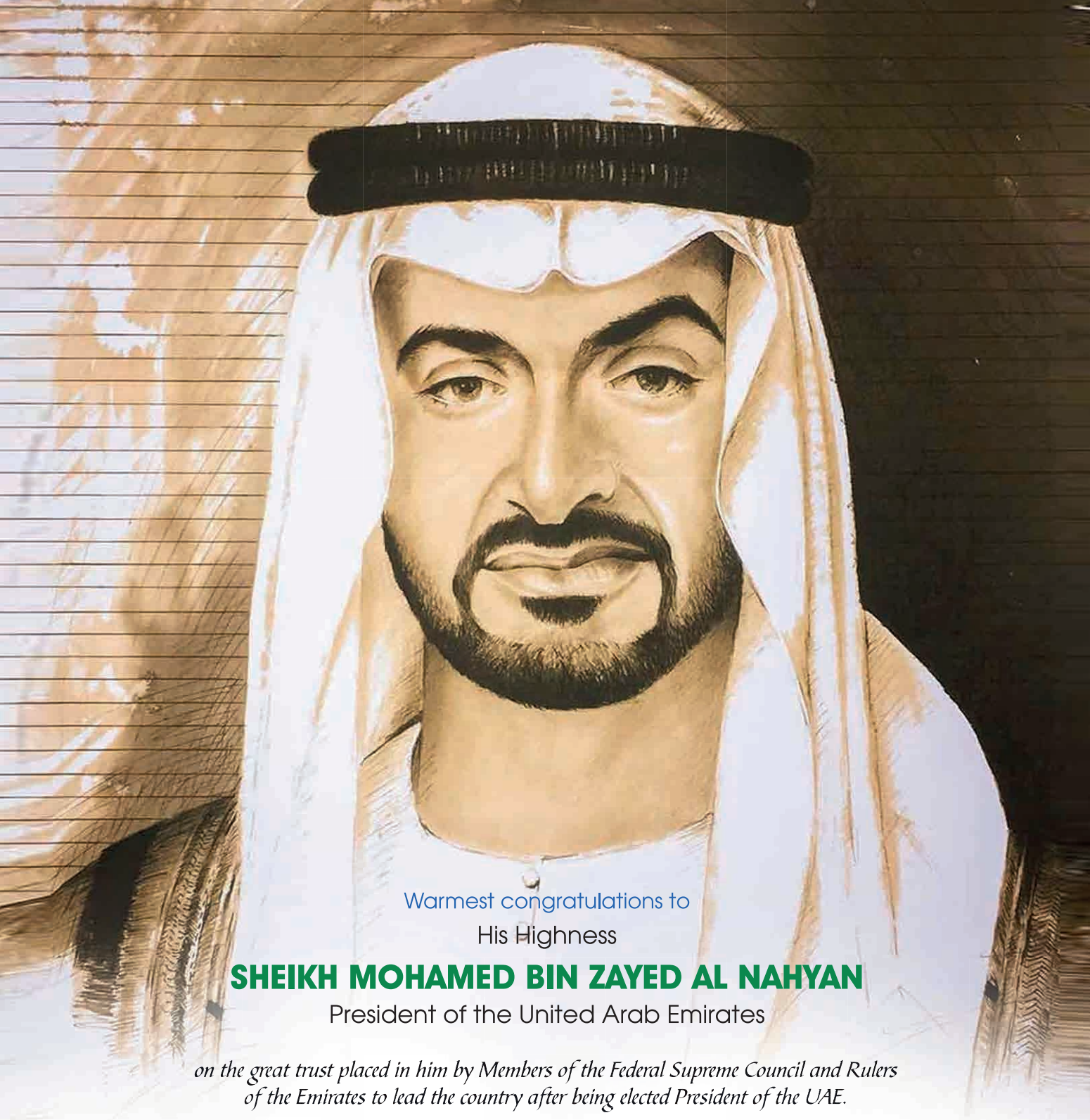
Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, MD and CEO of DEWA and Chairman of WGEO, noted that the WGES represents the UAE and Dubai's efforts to strengthen regional and international cooperation, achieve climate neutrality and accelerate the transition to a green economy.

"This aims to ensure economic growth, and sustainability of natural and environmental resources. This WGES aims to create an effective change and find out the means to fulfill the climate change commitment, in line with the

outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26). It also paves the way to COP27 in Egypt and the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) that the UAE will host at Expo City Dubai in 2023," he added.

WGES reflects the UAE's effective and influential role in achieving sustainable, low-carbon economic growth and ensuring a better future for humanity.

The Summit will provide a platform to build consensus around the potential of emerging technologies, policies and youth as engines of a green economy transformation. It will also focus on developing investment partnerships in green projects and financing and promote investment and employment opportunities provided by the green economy.



Warmest congratulations to
His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

President of the United Arab Emirates

*on the great trust placed in him by Members of the Federal Supreme Council and Rulers
of the Emirates to lead the country after being elected President of the UAE.*

We pray to Allah Almighty to bless and guide His Highness

We renew our loyalty & pledge of allegiance to his leadership to serve the UAE people.



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UAE's Sustainable Development Initiatives Presented At The UN

The high-level Emirati delegation participating in a high-level political forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), held at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, has presented the UAE's second voluntary national review report, which included a briefing on the country's local and international efforts to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

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UAE INITIATIVES



The UAE presented its second voluntary review at the annual United Nations (UN) forum held at its headquarters in New York

Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Chairperson of the National Committee on SDGs, said the UAE, guided by the vision of its wise leadership, is enhancing its stature as an effective player in achieving the SDGs through joint action and cooperation with other countries, adding that its voluntary national review report underscores its efforts to promote local and international strategic partnerships.

"The UAE's commitment to playing a leading international role was proven during the COVID-19 pandemic, when it accelerated its efforts to provide medical aid, vaccines and logistical support," she said.

The vision of the UAE's leadership, which prioritises global partnerships, was demonstrated by hosting 11 sustainability

The UAE is enhancing its stature as an effective player in achieving the SDGs through joint action and cooperation with other countries



weeks during Expo 2020 Dubai, which gathered 192 countries and welcomed 24 million visitors.

Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Political Affairs and Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN, highlighted the UAE's critical and influential international role in promoting the SDGs, through the partnerships and projects it has launched worldwide.

She also pointed out that the UAE has adopted the principles of regional and global partnerships and cooperation in its global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially as international communities have cooperated to ensure their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Health diplomacy over the two past years has

become a foreign policy priority. Since 2020, the UAE has provided vaccines and medical and food aid to other countries, through partnerships with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP)," she said.

Abdullah Nasser Lootah, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Deputy Chairman of the National Committee on SDGs, presented the UAE's second voluntary national review report at the annual UN forum and highlighted the global partnerships launched by the UAE to help communities and countries around the world.

These include the international education, aid and logistical programmes it launched throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including those aimed at eradicating hunger, addressing poverty, providing adequate health and ensuring good



education - in line with the SDGs.

The report also addressed the work of the UAE's National Committee on SDGs, which includes 15 federal authorities, as well as the key role of the government's strategic partners in policy making in the area of sustainability, along with the work of various advisory councils, including the Private Sector Advisory Council on Sustainable Development Goals, which links the public and private sectors and supports their efforts to draft policies and launch private initiatives.

The report also addressed the establishment of the Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals, which is a multi-specialist international network that includes over 200 experts and decision-makers and aims to ensure the implementation of SDGs. This entity suggests policies and projects that will help achieve the

SDGs in the UAE and throughout the world. The report also addressed the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), a major annual event that promotes global sustainability and gathers leaders and decision-makers from 170 countries.

Additionally, the report addressed the country's climate action efforts, as part of the UAE Net-Zero 2050 strategic initiative launched in 2021, which aims to reach zero emissions by 2050. The UAE is the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to launch such an initiative and has widely invested in renewable energy solutions worldwide.

The report highlighted several national and international projects and initiatives that promote the Sustainable Development Goals in human communities, including the launch of the

The report addressed the work of the UAE's National Committee on SDGs, which includes 15 federal authorities



"UN Big Data Platform on SDGs," which meets the needs of the Middle East and North Africa region and strengthens the role of the UAE as a global technology and data hub serving Sustainable Development Goals.

In terms of SDG 4, the report pointed out that the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives launched the Digital School project, which aims to empower deprived and vulnerable communities by registering 1 million students worldwide by 2025.

The report highlighted the UAE's leadership in gender balance, as it considers women's empowerment a national priority, in addition to highlighting the country's blue economy strategy.

Saeed Mohammad Al Eter Al Dhanhani, Chairman of the UAE Government Media Office and

Assistant Secretary-General of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, said the UAE is keen to lead the world in launching initiatives that serve human communities and enable them to achieve the SDGs.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives has allocated AED7 billion for humanitarian action over the past five years, he added, noting that during this period, humanitarian aid accounted for AED2.1 billion, making a positive change to the lives of 91 million people in 97 countries.

In terms of health and medical aid, the Noor Dubai Foundation's spending on dozens of medical initiatives amounted to AED51.2 million in 2021, while in terms of community empowerment, nearly AED88.7 million was spent to benefit some 2.1 million people, he added.

Emirates Food Security Council Discusses Local And Global Food Security Challenges

The Emirates Food Security Council (EFSC) led a discussion on the latest global developments in the agricultural sector with relevant federal and local authorities during its second meeting of the year. The council members addressed several vital issues related to local and global food security challenges. They also examined recommendations of the National Committee for Developing Local



At its second meeting this year, EFSC led discussions on the latest global developments in the agricultural sector

Production and Technology, explored the current state of food prices locally and mechanisms for regulating them, and reviewed the National Nutrition Strategy.

Mariam bint Mohammed Almhiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment and Chair of EFSC, emphasised that the UAE prioritises food security and places great importance on reinforcing its capabilities to address the challenges created by global developments that impact the stability of food supply chains and food availability worldwide.

She said, "Enhancing food security primarily relies on understanding its unique nature, as it is directly affected by changes in all sectors while influencing other sectors. Thus, addressing it demands an integrated and agile ecosystem of cooperation and coordination across all relevant

*'The UAE pays utmost attention to
enhancing food security'
- Minister of Climate Change and Environment*



sectors, authorities, and institutions. Creating such an ecosystem is the mandate of EFSC."

She clarified that understanding pressing global challenges is the only way to tackle them and reduce the risk of global food insecurity. That requires urgent steps by everyone concerned to see food from a more inclusive perspective and to consider its role as a critical factor in achieving a major shift towards a better future.

During the meeting, the Council members assessed the latest developments in the agricultural sector worldwide through early monitoring data on agricultural production, using reports produced by the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and FAO's Food Outlook. In addition, AMIS tracks the monthly production of several key commodities, including wheat, rice, and other grains, legumes, and soy.

The meeting's agenda also featured a comprehensive analysis of current food prices locally, and a discussion on the pricing policy of basic consumer goods and their monitoring and regulatory mechanisms.

In addition, the Council members reviewed the National Nutrition Strategy that aims to improve the nutritional status of all UAE population with a collective vision of a healthier and more sustainable future, guided by national, regional, and global policies and strategies.

EFSC's work follows carefully considered priorities, plans, and programmes that consider emergencies, crises, strategic reserves, local agricultural production, food safety, foreign investment, diversification of import sources, and nutrition.

Dubai To Invest AED40 Billion For Electricity, Water Projects Over Next 5 Years

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), has announced that DEWA has plans to invest AED40 billion on capital expenditure in the next five years including the expansion of renewable and clean energy projects.

He noted that DEWA plans to invest about



AED16 billion to strengthen and expand electricity and water transmission and distribution networks, about AED12 billion to complete the Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects in the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the Hassyan Power Complex and the Independent Water Producer (IWP) projects at Hassyan, in addition to completing other ongoing DEWA projects in infrastructure and smart systems.

The Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corporation (Empower), which is 70% owned by DEWA, plans to spend around AED3 billion mainly to expand district cooling capacity and network to meet demand growth for district cooling services.

"DEWA will continue to invest and enhance renewables' generation capacity, through

informed plans based on the latest tools for future foresight, in order to meet the increasing demand for electricity and water. We provide our services in accordance with the highest levels of quality, availability, reliability and efficiency and will keep pace with the rapid growth of Dubai across all areas. Our plans will consolidate Dubai's position as an advanced model that provides a favourable and supportive environment for investments," said Al Tayer.



UAE Participates In Ministerial Meeting On Environment Cooperation For A Better Future

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, attended the Ministerial Meeting on Environment Cooperation for a Better Future that took place in the Iranian capital Tehran.

The event aimed to advance regional cooperation in tackling shared environmental and climate challenges.

UAE NEWS



Held in the presence of the Iranian President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, the gathering brought together environmental ministers from countries of the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region as well as representatives of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), various NGOs, and academia.

During the plenary discussion, Almheiri highlighted the UAE's efforts to combat pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change. She also participated in a ministerial roundtable that examined ways of stepping up regional cooperation in this regard.

She said, "The transboundary nature of the environmental challenges we face necessitates that we respond in a coordinated manner. Building a sustainable future is a moral obligation towards the next generations, and our success depends on how well we all work together to drive low-carbon,

nature-positive, and resilient growth."

On the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting, the Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Ali Salajegheh, Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment of Iran, to initiate collaboration in fighting sand and dust storms. Accordingly, the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the Department of Environment of Iran will share experience and expertise, implement joint activities, and work together on developing a regional action plan to address the issue.

The scope of the MoU covers exchanging expert visits, setting up a joint task force, and leveraging the experience of relevant international institutions in early warning and forecasting of sand and dust storms to enhance preparedness.

UAE's Proposal On Quality Of Life Endorsed By World Health Assembly

The World Health Assembly (WHA) has unanimously approved a draft resolution submitted by the UAE during the assembly's 75th meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, adding yet another feather to the UAE's cap.

The draft resolution, which focuses on improving the quality of life, is the first of its kind to be approved by WHA, which operates under the



Delegates representing all WHO regions attended the meeting and endorsed the resolution

umbrella of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The historic achievement demonstrates that the UAE has truly become a more influential and active country than ever before, with increasing global strategic leverage.

All delegates from all WHO regions present at the meeting endorsed the resolution. The participating nations congratulated the UAE and its leadership on having the resolution approved after being effectively drafted and deliberated with stakeholders to arrive at a consensus formula, becoming the first of its kind.

The new milestone is a testament to the UAE's tremendous efforts being made to raise the living standards of its people and make the UAE the happiest nation on earth. The resolution will share the UAE's experience in this respect with the world.

First-of-its-kind resolution moots international framework for quality of life



Abdul Rahman bin Mohammad bin Nasser Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention, congratulated UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and Their Highnesses the Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates, on the historic success.

"This is undoubtedly a great accomplishment that makes us feel grateful and proud to be part of the UAE and exemplifies the civilised principles upon which the nation was founded to secure a better present and a bright future for everybody," Al Owais said.

"Additionally, it is a global acknowledgement that will only amplify our efforts to promote global collaboration and improve people's quality of life.

The resolution is a legitimate, formal way for us to tell the world's governments about our exceptional experience with quality of life."

The Minister stated that the UAE has become an essential partner in several worldwide initiatives and strategies. "The UAE's strong presence and distinguished international position would not have been feasible had it not been for the wise directives of our leadership, which has always been ready to support the global policies aimed at building a brighter future for mankind," he said.

"The UAE's successive achievements are undoubtedly the outcome of the forward-thinking vision adopted by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who prioritised improving the quality of life in the UAE and across the world. This well-thought-out approach is being followed by our wise leaders today, who are determined to



build an innovative health sector that keeps pace with the radical changes taking place in the world. Driven by clear objectives and strong resolve, the UAE will begin its new journey towards the next 50 years to write another success story," Al Owais added.

For his part, Dr. Mohammed Salim Al Olama, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Prevention, stressed that the adoption of the UAE's resolution is no mean feat and culminates the dynamic vision of the country's leadership. It also showcases the UAE's excellent diplomatic efforts.

"The UAE's proposal provides for the setting up of a comprehensive framework for promoting the quality of life and well-being of individuals and societies in various countries in consultation with member states," Al Olama said, adding that this

will help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (2030).

He lauded the crucial role that Emirati diplomacy had played in the proposal's development, which involved extensive consultation with a number of nations to arrive at a consensus version before being adopted.

"This achievement will undoubtedly strengthen the UAE's soft power, improve the country's reputation throughout the world, and underline its civilised image, identity, and distinct culture," Al Olama said.

Dr. Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Public Health Sector, emphasised that the proposal approved by the WHA constitutes a quality addition to the UAE's efforts being made to augment the quality of life

The UAE is committed to raising the living standards of its people and making it the happiest nation on earth



locally, regionally and internationally.

"The UAE values and prioritises the happiness of its people, so it goes to great lengths to ensure prosperity, well-being, and stability for all who live on its soil.

"To achieve this goal, realise the National Wellbeing Strategy for 2031 and share the country's experience with the world, the UAE submitted a draft resolution that calls on the Director-General of the World Health Organisation to prepare a quality-of-life framework to support member states that adopt this approach to reach the highest levels of health and well-being," Al Rand added.

He revealed that the resolution took nearly nine months to be prepared and discussed with other countries to identify key pillars that could

enhance the quality of life.

Dr. Aisha Musabih, Director of the Quality of Life and Sustainable Development Department, said, "The ministry of health aspires to achieve a number of strategic objectives, including enhancing the UAE's key role in promoting people's quality of life, which is why the resolution was prepared."

"The draft resolution is the first of its kind in the world to suggest the development of a global framework for the quality of life, and soon, the UAE will start working with the World Health Organisation to prepare a draft of the framework, which will be discussed by the WHO six regions and will then be submitted to the Executive Council of the World Health Organisation for final approval," Musabih added.

Etihad Airways Named 'Environmental Airline Of The Year 2022'

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been named 'Environmental Airline of the Year 2022' in the annual Airline Ratings awards. The ranking recognises Etihad's industry-leading strategy to improve aviation sustainability for both the airline itself and the entire industry.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate



Named the world's third best, the airline has been lauded for setting new standards for the global aviation industry

Change chose the UAE as host for COP 28 which will take place in 2023. Etihad's achievement is fully aligned with Abu Dhabi and the UAE's own commitment to work accelerate global efforts to address climate change and environmental protection.

The airline recently published the Etihad Airways Sustainability Report, which Airline Ratings has deemed as being a benchmark for the industry, demonstrating the potential advancements to be made in sustainable aviation by a wide range of initiatives.

Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Aviation Group, said, "Our ambition to become a leader in aviation sustainability has taken us on a journey to reduce the impact of aviation on the environment, not just for Etihad, but for the entire industry."

The ranking recognises Etihad's industry-leading strategy to improve aviation sustainability for both the airline itself and the entire industry



"We continue to explore and test all possible ways to decarbonise - from research into sustainable aviation fuels and contrail avoidance to offsets and reforestation through the Etihad Mangroves Forest project. The Sustainability Report we published this year is a culmination of our efforts demonstrating the work we have done and what we have learned so far."

Etihad's sustainability initiatives began with a focus on creating operational efficiencies. The airline quickly went on to unite industry leaders and build the most comprehensive, cross organisational aviation sustainability initiative ever undertaken.

This umbrella programme, now in its third year, includes partnerships with Boeing, GE, Airbus and Rolls Royce, as well as a wide range of collaborations with pioneering new-technology

organisations, academic researchers, smaller businesses, and start-ups.

Etihad's flagship sustainability programmes include the Greenliner programme using the airline's fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners as flying testbeds, as well as the Sustainable50 A350-1000 launched earlier this year.

Douglas continues, "We are grateful to our partners from the major manufacturers to academics and small start-ups who have partnered with us on this mission, especially through the Greenliner and Sustainable50 programmes. And we are appreciative of our guests and corporate clients who have played their part by bringing a little less luggage or choosing to offset their flights."

Airlineratings.com Editor-in-Chief Geoffrey



Thomas said, "Etihad Airways has shown its clear leadership in the push for sustainable flight with its Greenliner Boeing 787 programme and this year with its Sustainability50, A350 aircraft."

Thomas added that "the airline's Sustainability Report 2020-2021 demonstrates the potential advancements to be made in sustainable aviation by a wide range of initiatives, coordinated to achieve a 20 percent reduction in emissions intensity in its passenger fleet by 2025, cut 2019 net emissions by 50 percent by 2035, and reach net-zero emissions by 2050."

Over the past three years, the airline has conducted a vast number of research eco-flights demonstrating potential carbon emission savings of up to 72 percent on a single flight.

Etihad has also tested and implemented world-

first operational efficiencies and technology solutions including Jeppesen Flite Deck Advisor, SATAVIA contrail avoidance, GE Engine Foam Wash, eTech logs and lightweight Unit Load Devices.

In addition to the airline's comprehensive testing and innovation programme, Etihad became the first airline to secure commercial finance based on verified compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

The Etihad Mangroves Forest project was launched with plans to establish carbon-absorbing forests in countries where the airline operates. Etihad also offers the Conscious Choices programme with rewards for customers who take environmentally positive action such as offsetting their flights.

Arab Water Council Convenes Environment & Development Forum Ahead Of COP27

In preparation for the upcoming COP27, the Arab Water Council is convening the Environment and Development Forum 2022 at InterContinental City Stars Cairo, Egypt from September 11 - 13.

The three-day forum brings together thought leaders from across different sectors and industries to highlight climate change impacts

UAE NEWS



EDF 2022
Environment & Development Forum

The Road to Sharm El Sheikh
Climate Change CoP27

11 - 13 September 2022
InterContinental City Stars Cairo, Egypt

Under the Patronage
of the Government of Egypt
Presidency of Climate Change CoP27
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
HE. Sameh Shoukry
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
President Designate, CoP27

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Convened by
المجلس العربي للمياه
Arab Water Council

In cooperation with
Ministry of Environment
HE. Yasmine Foad
Minister of Environment, Egypt

Ministry of Environment

and solutions including adaptation and mitigation measures in several sectors. The event will also host an Expo to demonstrate technologies and innovations in the field.

The interactive forum will discuss eight key themes and three cross-cutting themes, all addressing climate change challenges which are on the agenda of nations around the globe. Research and Development, Policies and Strategies, Green Finance, Knowledge Sharing, Skills and Human Capital Development, Creativity and Technology Innovation are amongst the main tools and solutions which will be discussed.

There will be more than 50 speakers in the panel discussions and numerous technical workshops covering key challenges and trends. The EDF Awards are yet another aspect of the forum, created to recognise and honour best practices

for Waste Reduction, Net Zero initiatives, Innovative Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation Products, Green Building and Best Water Savings and Reuse.

Sponsors and exhibitors will showcase their products, technology and innovations in the climate change space for more than 800 conference delegates who are committed to driving change, reducing their carbon emissions and building more sustainable futures for their businesses. More than 30 countries will attend the forum.

The attendees include ministers and government agencies, global policymakers, international and regional organisations, water and agriculture experts, heads of carbon capture and utilisation, chief technology officers and others.

Mariam Almheiri Inaugurates Upgraded National Air Quality Platform

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, inaugurated an upgraded version of the National Air Quality Platform during a tour of the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) in Abu Dhabi.

She was accompanied by Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous, Director-General of NCM and President of the



Upgraded version of the National Air Quality Platform provides a real-time overview of the current status of air quality in the UAE

Regional Association II (Asia) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and several senior employees of the Center.

Joining them on the tour were Asilah Abdullah Al Mualla, Director-General of the Fujairah Environment Authority, and representatives of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), Dubai Municipality, and Ajman Municipality & Planning Department.

During the visit, the Minister inaugurated an upgraded version of the National Air Quality Platform, originally launched in September 2020. Accessible to the public, the revamped site provides a real-time overview of the current status of air quality in the UAE, monitored by a network of state-of-the-art stations spanning various residential, industrial, and rural areas as well as areas close to main roads.

Improving air quality is among the eight pillars of the UAE General Environmental Policy, which was approved by the Cabinet in November 2020



In addition to serving the community, the information available on the platform can benefit multiple sectors, including health and education. It also offers advice, particularly to sensitive groups, on mitigating the impact of air quality on human health.

Mariam Almheiri said, "Public health and environmental protection are strategic priorities for the UAE. Improving air quality is among the eight pillars of the UAE General Environmental Policy, which was approved by the Cabinet in November 2020 with the aim of enhancing quality of life, well-being, and prosperity in the country, and to support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"The National Air Quality Platform is an accurate scientific reference that allows us to track the progress made by our national projects and

initiatives aimed at increasing the AQI score to 100 percent by 2040. The launch of the upgraded platform in partnership with NCM seeks to educate the concerned entities and the community on a very important issue that is closely linked to public health," she added.

Dr. Al Mandous said, "This joint strategic project between NCM and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment reflects the great commitment to the UAE public health, as it enhances awareness of air quality and its impacts on health. The second version of the platform contributes to reformulating many practices and developing innovative tools and projects aimed at enhancing air quality, which will have a positive impact on the environment and protect it from harmful airborne pollutants.

"At NCM, we are committed to supporting all



national efforts aimed at preserving the environment and will continue to work alongside partners to develop initiatives that serve the objectives of the UAE General Environmental Policy. NCM will also ensure ease of accessibility for all community members to the air quality database across the UAE," he added.

The National Air Quality Platform, available on NCM's official website, features the Air Quality Index (AQI), a simplified color-coded representation of data collected from each air quality monitoring station.

The AQI is based on measuring the levels of five major pollutants - carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), ground-level ozone (O₃), and particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀). The index uses a scale of 0 to 500, with 500

representing the highest level of air pollution. The lower the number, the cleaner the air.

The upgrade of the platform followed a series of consultation sessions with end users, a review of international best practices in this space, and benchmarking against similar sites.

Based on the results, the data was simplified and displayed in a more user-friendly manner to make it easier to comprehend for the public. In addition, the site now features recommendations for outdoor activities based on air quality on any given day.

Users can check air quality according to area and learn about the health risks associated with each air pollution level, categorized by colors. Green indicates that air quality is suitable for exercise and other outdoor activities for all individuals.

Users can check air quality according to area and learn about the health risks associated with each air pollution level, categorized by colors



Yellow indicates that air quality is acceptable to most individuals, however, prolonged exposure may be uncomfortable for people with respiratory diseases or those performing strenuous outdoor activities, such as sports or physical labor.

Orange indicates that members of sensitive groups may experience minor negative health effects if they exercise or perform strenuous activities in the outdoors.

Red indicates that air quality may affect healthy individuals exercising or performing physical labor outdoor, with increased impact on members of sensitive groups. Meanwhile, purple indicates that the entire population is likely to be affected, with the recommendation to avoid outdoor activities, and burgundy indicates a serious threat to the health of the entire population, with the recommendation to stay indoors.

During her tour of NCM, Almheiri visited the Science Dome, an immersive 4D model that simulates weather and seismic phenomena using meteorological and climatic data and geophysics to explain the science behind them to the public in an innovative way.

It features state-of-the-art technologies, special effects, a 6K projection system, and custom media. Historically, air quality has been among the UAE's main priorities due to its health, economic, and environmental impacts.

The country has paid special attention to this issue, selecting raising air quality levels as one of the objectives of the UAE Centennial 2071, and including it among the priorities of the UAE General Environmental Policy.

UAE Explorers Witness Antarctica's Alarming Climate Change Impact

A four-member team of Antarctica explorers from the UAE have expressed shock at the unprecedented events during their expedition that have revealed the alarming impact of climate change on the icy continent.

A tiny creature's shrinking population that affects the entire wildlife, collapse of an ice shelf, a record high temperature and an



In East Antarctica the temperature was 40 degrees warmer than it had seen before, a record high temperature of minus 11 degrees

unseasonal rain during the recent expedition to the seventh continent are a grave cause for concern, they said in an interview to Emirates News Agency (WAM).

A small creature tells a big story

"Antarctica made me think of life as an ecosystem. The shocking extreme events we witnessed - historical temperature increase and rainy days in a desert-like continent - left us befuddled about the fate of Antarctica and the globe," says Athraa Khamis, an Emirati engineer at DP World's Tumoohi programme.

"The ecosystem was also shivering as the primary food of all the fascinating Antarctic wildlife - a shrimp-like crustacean called krill - was losing its homes and glaciers were melting due to global warming. These disorders in the ecosystem affects life forms not only in

Four-member team shocked by unprecedented events during expedition



Athraa Khamis (left), Winston Cowie (middle) and Mahra Mohammed Al Murawwi with UAE flag during the Antarctica expedition

Antarctica, but everywhere," explains Khamis who was part of the International Antarctic Expedition 2022 led by Sir Robert Swan, the famous explorer who is the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles.

Adventurous expedition

In April, about 177 environmental leaders from 37 countries were on the ship named 'Ocean Victory' that left from Ushuaia at the bottom of South America and crossed the Drake Passage, the most treacherous waterway in the world, before reaching Antarctica.

Before joining the expedition, Mahra Mohammed Al Murawwi, an Emirati who just completed her honours degree in Environmental Geoscience from the University of Glasgow, had already been inspired by Swan's talk at her university.

"I was mesmerised by the whole speech and the opportunity to be amongst those who will be setting foot in Antarctica," Al Murawwi reveals.

Three alarming events

"Three really concerning climate events happened in Antarctica while we were there. The Conger Ice Shelf - larger than Abu Dhabi or Dubai's city area, with an approximate surface area of 1,200 sq. km, collapsed when we were there.

"We are talking about a really big ice shelf," says Winston Cowie, a Manager of Marine Policy at the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD).

In East Antarctica the temperature was 40 degrees warmer than it had seen before, a record high temperature of minus 11 degrees.

"It rained on us when we were on the Antarctic



Peninsula – this was a strange phenomenon and has only been seen in Antarctica in the past 25 years. These events are incredibly concerning," explains Cowie, a New Zealander

He had visited Antarctica in 2018 as part of the EAD's Team Zayed that voyaged with Sir Robert Swan and sent a message with solar lights to the world about climate change.

For Sayesha Dogra, a Dubai resident, "the expedition was the ultimate nudge for me to shift gears and jump into the world of climate-tech solutions. I am in the process of building a plan to start my entrepreneurial journey in this space."

Action plan

Dogra plans to engage with the UAE youth to enable these future leaders to "think global and act local" to check climate change, says the Indian

national who works at noon in minutes, an e-commerce platform.

Khamis says, "I would scale-up my contribution in taking meaningful actions to go into a battle for the future!"

Al Murawwi wants to spread the message on climate change among students and campaign to include the topic in educational curriculum "because I believe that climate education is no less important than other subjects."

Cowie says he will continue to push hard for positive marine policy outcomes for the marine environment in Abu Dhabi and will be a voice for the action against climate change in Antarctica. "What is happening there and how – these are very relevant to the world's net zero strategy."



Masdar Empowers 23 Young Women To Lead Sustainable Change In Communities

Masdar has announced that 23 graduates have successfully completed its annual Women in Sustainability, Environment, and Renewable Energy (WiSER) Pioneers Programme, which empowers women aged 25 to 35 to lead sustainable change in their communities and careers.

Now in its fourth year, more than 70 young

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women representing 17 nationalities have graduated from the WiSER Pioneers Programme, including this year's 23 graduates, all of whom completed more than 20 hours of educational and skills-training workshops and over 100 hours of one-on-one mentorship sessions.

The programme is part of Masdar's broader WiSER initiative, launched in 2015, to inspire women and girls to play a more active, coequal role in the global energy transition, in line with both the UAE's strategic net-zero initiative and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Lamya Fawwaz, Masdar Executive Director of Brand & Strategic Initiatives, and WiSER Programme Director, said, "By training, upskilling and creating mentorship opportunities for talented young women, the WiSER Pioneers Programme empowers future generations of

women to become sustainability leaders in their communities, workplaces and around the world, which is critical to meeting the SDGs."

WiSER Advisory Council Member, Co-Chair of UN-Energy, and CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Sustainable Energy for All, Damilola Ogunbiyi, said, "Through my involvement with WiSER, I am proud to play a part in empowering women to become leaders in our sustainable energy future and I look forward to the positive impact these graduates will make."

WiSER Pioneer, Farah Al Sayegh, said, "The WiSER Pioneers Programme gave me the opportunity to learn directly from world-class experts, industry leaders, innovators and change-makers, fostering the real-world experience and robust global network I will need to make a meaningful difference."

UAE Hosts 3rd National Dialogue For Climate Ambition

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment recently hosted the third National Dialogue for Climate Ambition, dedicated to the finance industry.

It was held under the theme 'Financing the transition of the UAE to net zero by 2050' and brought together over 80 representatives of relevant public and private sector entities,



The dialogue session included 80 representatives of relevant government and private sector institutions, including financial regulators, banks, and finance companies

including financial regulators, financial centres, banks, insurers, and asset managers.

The participants discussed the global sustainable finance perspective, reviewed the status of the local sectoral landscape, and explored innovative tools and mechanisms necessary to support the UAE's journey to climate neutrality.

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, said, "The UAE government is committed to fulfilling the objectives of the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative. However, the scale of the investment required is massive, and the partnership with the private sector is critical. With our stakeholders from the financial sector, we aim to explore opportunities to accelerate the decarbonization of high-priority sectors."

The third National Dialogue on Climate Ambition highlights the role of the financial sector in achieving climate neutrality



The UAE is making great strides in developing the sustainable finance sector. In 2021, the country launched the UAE Sustainable Finance Framework that seeks to step up cooperation between the public and private sectors, and channel capital towards climate-resilient and environment-friendly investments.

Meanwhile, the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) Sustainable Finance Agenda sets out a roadmap to develop a sustainable finance hub in the UAE with the aim of promoting green and sustainable investments in the region.

Boosting the role of the private sector, the Dubai Declaration on Sustainable Finance and the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration commit UAE-based financial institutions to contribute to the country's green economy transition through financing sustainable projects.

Inter-university research debate on SDGs

The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) will host a research debate on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inviting teams from each university in the UAE to its campus in Al Ain from October 24 - 27, 2022.

Prof. Ahmed Murad, Associate Provost for Research, said, "The competition requires students to debate their ideas and suggestions for resolving the challenges related to the 17 global goals." Each university in the UAE can nominate a team of four students by August 31.

Judging criteria will include knowledge of the SDGs and their application, the analytic use of scientific evidence, clarity of concepts used, critical thinking, innovation and the quality of the team's final summary presentation.

Study Finds Links Between Environmental Degradation And Zoonotic Diseases

Deforestation, air, soil, water pollution, imperishable waste, and other environmental issues impacting the globe are intrinsically linked to the increasing frequency and lethality of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19.

This is according to a new study published by Elsevier in its journal "Hygiene and Environmental



Study led by Sharjah's Beeah Environmental Services finds that protecting the environment can protect us from pandemics

Health Advances". The study was led by BEEAH Environmental Services, the environmental consultancy business of Middle East sustainability pioneer, BEEAH Group.

The evidence-based review was informed by the studies of over 700,000 viruses derived from high-risk viral families observed since the 1980s. Through improved environmental management, the study found that the risk of infectious zoonotic disease outbreaks could be mitigated and ultimately prevent the occurrence of pandemic outbreaks in the future.

"Healthy environmental ecosystems create a sanitary barrier that limits the spread of disease. Additionally, protecting against the effects of climate change may play a significant role in minimising the impact and transmission of infectious diseases. Therefore, it is vital that we

Improved environmental management can mitigate the risk of infectious zoonotic disease outbreaks



increase our focus on protecting the environment to improve our resilience to future pandemics," said Mohamed AlHosani, Chief Sustainability Officer at BEEAH Group, a co-author of the study.

According to research, deforestation is reported to increase susceptibility to COVID-19 due to wildfire induced pollution and loss of forest ecosystem services. As such, forest fragmentation and biodiversity loss can potentially proliferate the transmission of viruses and diseases.

"Deforestation will likely lead to environmental damage and the modification of zoonotic habitats, resulting in the increased frequency of human and domestic animal contact with wildlife reservoirs of potential zoonoses. This increases the likelihood of our exposure to infectious diseases transmitted between species," said Dr.

Hashem Stietiya, the BEEAH Environment Services Director of Research and Development, a co-author of the study.

The study highlighted the fact that poor air quality can lead to a decreased immune response, impact lung function, and further enable the spread of viruses. Underdeveloped countries are particularly at risk since inadequate environmental management is more prevalent.

Air quality has been a major area of focus for BEEAH Environment Services. "An University of Sharjah study found that air quality improved significantly as a result of restricted mobility due to COVID-19 lockdown measures," Dr. Stietiya recalled.

"Following this study, we became curious about the relationship between air quality and the



spread of viruses. We began conducting evidence-based research on the spread of viruses, which clearly showed the potential for environmental management to mitigate the risk of future pandemics, contribute to better quality and of course contribute to better overall public health," added Dr. Stietiya.

In relation to waste management, the study reported that lack of protection measures and safe disposal options raised concerns around viruses and diseases with a high infectivity rate. This is because solid waste materials could contain droplets, body fluids and blood, which may be contaminated with a viable virus.

Furthermore, inadequate legal frameworks and non-adherence to environmental regulations also aggravate the risk and vulnerability to future waves of pandemics.

"When examined holistically, these findings prove that thoughtful management of environmental factors such as deforestation, air quality, and waste would assist not only in predicting the severity of a pandemic but also in managing diseases," said Dr. Stietiya.

AlHosani added, "Since the start of the pandemic, nations across the globe have been prioritising economic recovery efforts and safeguarding agricultural production. This has impacted global sustainability efforts, without which there is increasing potential for the severity of future outbreaks to be exacerbated. Now, as economies move beyond recovery towards transformation and growth, sustainability through environmental management must be made a key priority to ensure we are better prepared to mitigate the risks of any future outbreaks."

RTA To Trial Eco-Friendly Electric Bus

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed an agreement with the Australian bus manufacturer BusTech Group to test the operation of an eco-friendly, zero-emission electric bus to verify its operational feasibility in Dubai's climatic environment.

The trial run will also test innovative technologies

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to enhance the customer service experience and enable the bus to operate as a smart asset seamlessly integrated with Dubai's environmental mass transit system. The assessment will also include the bus benefits and performance as well as the feedback from drivers and customers to continuously identify improvement areas.

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozyan, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA, and Dan Marks, CEO, BusTech Group, signed the agreement on behalf of the respective parties.

"This is the first agreement under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between RTA and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Government, Australia, aimed at enhancing the cooperation between both parties. RTA's environmental-friendly plans call for increasing the number of electric and hybrid

vehicles, improving energy-efficient facilities, upgrading streetlights, and reducing waste. It also aims to modify its buildings to achieve carbon neutrality in line with Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050," said Bahrozyan.



Dynamic, powerful and with pure aerodynamics - the recent world premiere of the ID. AERO concept car in China, Volkswagen is providing a foretaste of the brand's first global fully electric sedan.

Volkswagen's First Fully Electric Sedan:

The future model will be positioned in the premium mid-size sedan segment. Its progressive, stylish, and aerodynamic design



Fully electric four-door production model will be offered worldwide in the future in the premium mid-size segment

allows the vehicle to impress with generous space in the interior.

The production version for China is expected to go on sale in the second half of 2023. Volkswagen is also planning to start production of a European series version in Emden in 2023.

“With the ID. AERO show car, we are revealing a preview of the next member of the ID. family. A car with an emotional and at the same time extremely aerodynamic design, a range of over 600 kilometres, an extraordinary amount of space and a premium interior,” says Ralf Brandstätter, Chief Executive Officer of Volkswagen Passenger Cars. “With our ACCELERATE strategy, we are intensively driving forward the electrification of our model range. Following the ID.4, this model will be our next global car for Europe, China and the US.”

Volkswagen reveals concept car as a preview of the ID. family flagship



620 kilometres (WLTP), making it suitable for long distances.

Elegant design

The ID. AERO has an elegant aerodynamic design featuring a wrap-around light strip and metallic paintwork. Stylistically, the ID. AERO transfers the design of the ID. family to a sedan in the premium mid-size segment for the first time. The aerodynamically designed front end and roof ensure that air flows optimally over the vehicle. The air flow is calmed by the slightly drawn-in rear end with an separation edge.

The sporty 22-inch two-tone wheels are designed in the style of a turbine and are integrated flush into the wheel housings. Classic door handles are replaced by illuminated touch surfaces, which reduce the drag even further. At the top of the silhouette, the bold tornado line and downward sloping roof line shape the design. The powerful shoulder section of the ID. AERO is located above the tornado line. The contour lines make the electric sedan appear flatter and give it a dynamic look.

The ID. AERO concept vehicle has a Polar Light Blue Metallic paintwork – a light metallic colour

The concept vehicle is almost five metres long and was designed based on aerodynamic principles. The roof slopes elegantly to the rear in coupé style and contributes to achieving an excellent drag coefficient of 0.23.

The ID. AERO is equipped with a powerful lithium-ion battery with a net energy content of 77 kWh.

Volkswagen's modular electric drive matrix (MEB) additionally permits short overhangs, a long wheelbase, and an exceptionally spacious vehicle interior. The ID. AERO is equipped with a powerful lithium-ion battery with a net energy content of 77 kWh. Thanks to the interaction of the efficient drive system and the excellent aerodynamic properties, the ID. AERO achieves ranges of up to





shade whose colour pigments create a golden shimmer effect in appropriate light conditions. The roof is painted in a high-gloss black to contrast with the vehicle body. The front end is characterised by the ID. honeycombs typical for the ID. family.

The ID. AERO concept vehicle has a Polar Light Blue Metallic paintwork – a light metallic colour shade whose colour pigments create a golden shimmer effect in appropriate light conditions.

The front is horizontally split into two in the bumper and is a defining style element for the ID. AERO design. As another distinctive feature that makes the ID. AERO stand out in the crowd, a

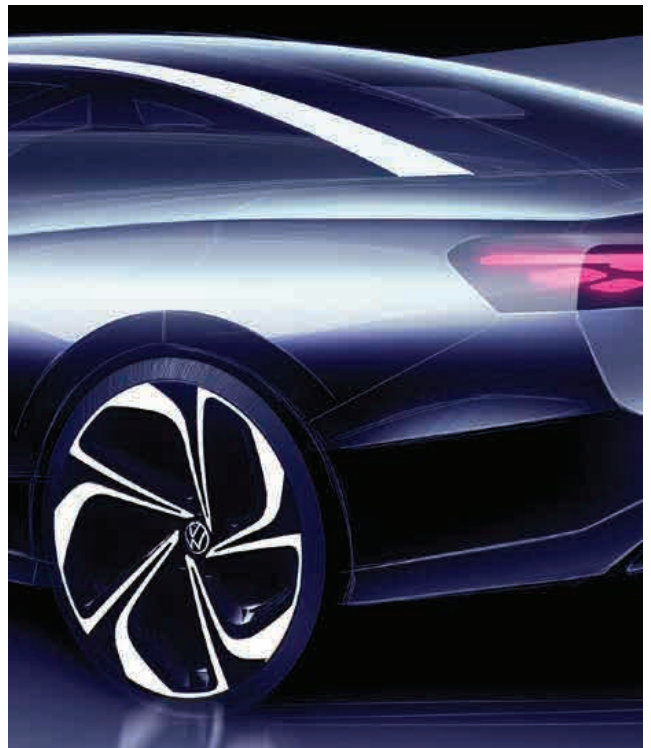
narrow light strip extends horizontally across the front out to the left and right of the illuminated Volkswagen badge and above the innovative IQ. LIGHT LED matrix headlights, wrapping into the wings and side panels.

This light strip is continued visually to the rear end with a few interruptions. The dominant rear end features a striking dark light strip and LED taillight clusters with a honeycomb structure that creates an exclusive look.

Versatility of the modular electric drive matrix

The ID. AERO demonstrates the flexibility of Volkswagen's purely electric MEB architecture, which can be adapted for vehicles of different shapes and sizes. The MEB can be used across segments – from compact crossover or SUV and minibus through to spacious sedan. With the ID.

*Flowing design combines
optimised aerodynamics and
elegant lines*

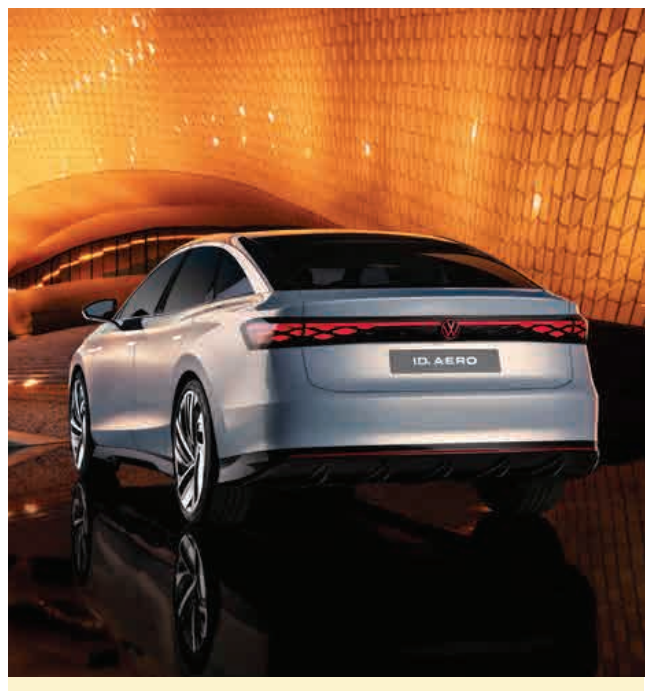


AERO, the MEB therefore allows the ID. family to enter the mid-size sedan segment. The MEB also fully exploits the possibilities of electric mobility, allowing long ranges, a maximum of digital connectivity and over-the-air update capability.

Production of the European version

The production version of the ID. AERO will be the fourth fully electric model series in China, with expected availability in the second half of 2023. As for Europe, it is expected that the production version of the ID. AERO will roll off the assembly line in the Emden plant in 2023.

With the volume production of electric vehicles, Emden will be one of the first Volkswagen plants of this kind in Lower Saxony and will make a decisive contribution to electrifying the model range and reducing the CO2 emissions of the overall new vehicle fleet.



'SeaWorld Abu Dhabi' Theme Park To Deploy Rooftop Solar PV

Emerge, a joint venture between the UAE's Masdar and France's EDF, has announced the signing of an agreement with Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading creator of immersive destinations and experiences, to deploy on-site solar energy systems at the SeaWorld Abu Dhabi theme park currently under construction on Yas Island. The project, which will have a capacity of 8.2 megawatts (MW), will see rooftop solar



Emerge is the joint venture between Masdar and EDF that will build the solar-powered environment

photovoltaic (PV) systems installed at the marine-life mega-development on Yas Island, including the main building. Emerge will provide a full turnkey solution, including design, procurement, and construction, as well as operation and maintenance services.

Mohamed Abdalla Al Zaabi, CEO of Miral, said, "Our agreement with Emerge to deploy new solar energy systems marks an important step in SeaWorld Abu Dhabi's sustainability strategy. This partnership, a significant environmental milestone, underscores our commitment to sustainability as we strengthen Yas Island's position as a global destination within the Emirates' tourism ecosystem."

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, said, "This project demonstrates Abu Dhabi's commitment to

The world's largest aquarium, which will hold roughly 68,000 marine species, will be a showpiece of the Yas Island-based SeaWorld Abu Dhabi



finding innovative ways of achieving its clean energy objectives and increasing renewable energy usage. By leveraging the local and international experience of Masdar and EDF – both leading companies in the energy sector – the Emerge joint venture supports Miral's ongoing environmental efforts and helps to drive sustainable development within the regional leisure and tourism sector."

Laurent Clement, CEO of EDF Middle East, said that the private sector is playing a major role in supporting the UAE Energy Strategy 2050, and in achieving an energy mix that combines renewable and clean energy sources to balance economic requirements and environmental goals.

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi represents the first new SeaWorld marine-life park in more than 30 years and the first outside the United States. The

marine life theme park will offer unique immersive experiences that engage visitors from the UAE and worldwide, broadening their knowledge and appreciation of marine life.

The next-generation park will also include the UAE's first dedicated centre for marine research and education; its rescue and rehabilitation operations will also be a first for the region to return healthy animals back to their native habitats. The centre will support current and upcoming marine life research on native species while contributing to global marine science and knowledge.

Emerge was established by Masdar and EDF to explore and collaborate on opportunities in distributed solar generation, energy efficiency and street lighting in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

EWEC, Tadweer, Seek Proposal Requests For Waste-To-Energy Power Project

Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC) and Abu Dhabi Waste Management Centre (Tadweer) have issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to pre-qualified companies and consortia that had expressed interest in developing the greenfield Abu Dhabi Waste-to-Energy (WtE) Independent Power Project (IPP).

The WtE plant, to be located near the existing Al



The selected developer will own up to 40 per cent of the greenfield sustainable project

Dhafra landfill in Abu Dhabi, will have a processing capacity of 900,000 tonnes of waste per year and generate enough electricity to power up to 52,500 households, making it one of the largest WtE facilities in the region.

In addition, the WtE plant is expected to reduce CO2 equivalent emissions by up to 1.1 million tonnes per year (equivalent to the removal of more than 240,000 cars from the road).

Othman Al Ali, Chief Executive Officer of EWEC, said, "We have seen significant interest in this strategic project and are delighted to now invite qualified companies to participate in the RFP. Finding innovative solutions to divert almost a million tonnes of waste per year from landfills is vital to reducing the impact of waste on the environment. This Waste-to-Energy facility will reduce carbon emissions that result from traditional waste management, while also

The new Abu Dhabi waste-to-energy plant will generate enough electricity to power up to 52,500 households, according to Ewec and Tadweer



supporting the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative."

Dr. Salem Al Kaabi, Director-General of Tadweer, said, "This vital project reflects our commitment to developing innovative projects and solutions in the field of waste management and supporting the circular economy in the UAE. The plant will help turn household waste into electrical energy. The project will be structured through the IPP model, in line with the best international standards and practices."

The RFP is being issued to selected bidders that submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) and have completed the qualification process. A total of 109 companies and consortia had submitted EOIs. The project will involve the financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the WtE plant that will use advanced moving grate

technology to convert municipal solid waste into electricity via a high-efficiency steam turbine generator set.

The successful developer will own up to 40 percent of the entity while the remaining equity will be primarily held indirectly by the Abu Dhabi Government. Proposals are expected to be received by the end of Q4 2022.

The waste-to-energy facility is being developed to help reduce carbon emissions that result from traditional waste management, while also supporting the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative.

The Emirates' Net Zero 2050 strategy calls for Dh600 billion investments in clean and renewable energy sources in the next three decades.

World's Most Sustainable City: Frankfurt, Germany

Frankfurt, the financial capital of Germany, is home to 14 of the tallest skyscrapers in the country and one of Europe's largest international airports - all while being one of the most sustainable cities in the world.

A sustainable city is a definition given to cities that are built around measures of environmental protection. This means a sustainable city strives



The Frankfurt Green Belt covers approximately 8,000 hectares, which corresponds to about a third of Frankfurt's city area

to coexist with the planet by reducing its human footprint in a considerable way. Consultancy Arcadis' Sustainable Cities Index ranked Frankfurt as number one in the year 2015. The main goal for Frankfurt is to reduce their CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030.

Green Belt

The Frankfurt Green Belt is a circular space that runs around the core city of Frankfurt. It covers approximately 8,000 hectares, which corresponds to about a third of Frankfurt's city area. The Green Belt of Frankfurt was initiated in 1991 as one of the first green belts in the world with a constitution, at a time when the city did not yet have large growth rates. It is part of the 10,850-hectare green belt landscape protection area.

The green areas under the Frankfurt Green Belt

Frankfurt has committed itself to converting its entire energy supply to renewable energies by 2050



with green spaces and sustainability at its heart, with numerous rooftop gardens, a central park and an 8,000-hectare nature reserve right outside. The district wants to become the country's first e-city and has a charging station for electric cars, a bicycle rental station, and access to the cycle path network of the greater Rhine-Main metro area.

PIER F, launched in 2015 as an educational and meeting place for sustainability initiatives and innovation, is a project of the renowned Frankfurt architectural platform AiD - Architektur im Dialog. It focuses on climate-friendly building. The project has created offices and co-working spaces for creatives, especially from the field of sustainability, plus showroom areas called 'The Green Space', where companies and initiatives present green products and concepts.

contain a large part of forest cover and are excluded from urban development.

About half of the city's urban area consists of natural landscapes in one form or another - from urban parks and forests to palm trees and sand dunes, and around 80 per cent of the city's population live within 300 metres of a public green space. Even in the more bustling areas of Frankfurt, you'll still see green spaces and wildlife. Thanks to the Green Space Office Frankfurt am Main, flower and grass meadows have been planted on verges and traffic islands that attract bees, butterflies, and other insects.

Green Buildings

Sustainable construction is key in Frankfurt. A new district, Gateway Gardens, is a 'Global Business Village' certified by the DGNB German Sustainable Building Council. It was designed





Transport

While Frankfurt is easy to get to by plane—the airport is connected to 300 destinations in over 100 countries, and only an 11-minute train ride away from the city—there are greener ways to get there. Frankfurt Main Train Station is one of Germany's busiest train stations, servicing more than 1,100 trains daily from numerous national and international destinations.

One can also use the city's long-distance coach with FlixBus. The company operates low-emission buses and also offers the chance to offset emissions when buying tickets. Frankfurt's countless cycle rickshaws, known as “velotaxis”, are also available for having a look around town.

Frankfurt also has a great network of designated bike lanes and more extensive cycling paths. Also, cyclists can cycle on ‘Einbahnstrassen’, which

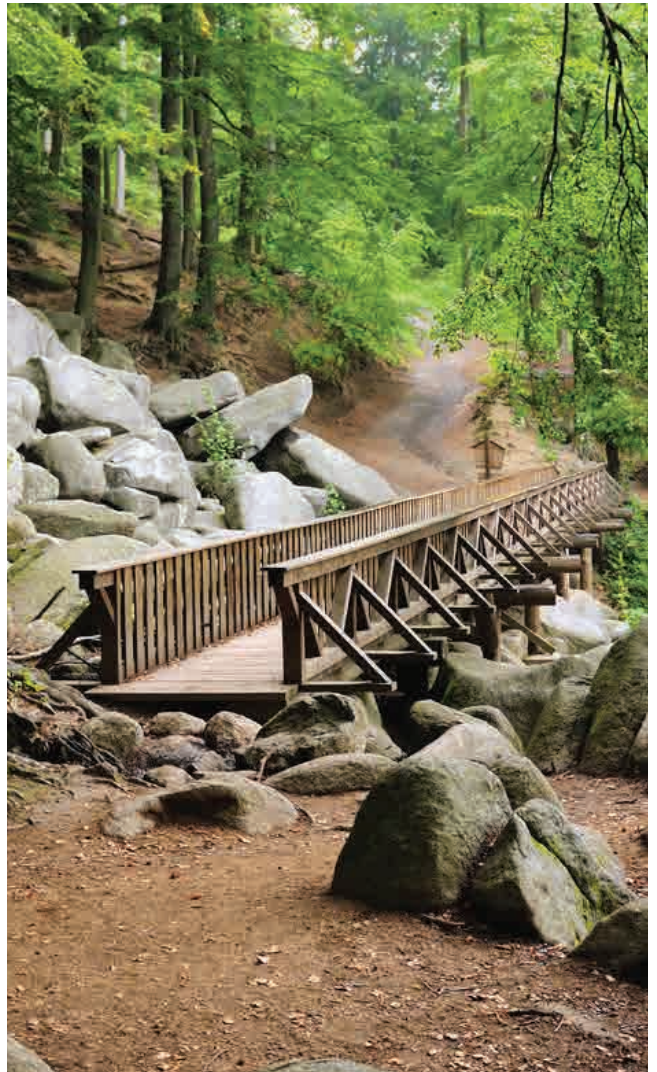
means that cars can only go in one direction, while bicycles can go in two directions. In addition, there is a bicycle-street in the center of the city at Goethestrasse. Furthermore, along the Main River runs the city's Main Cycling Path, a scenic route, which is almost 600 kilometres long.

Sustainable Energy

Frankfurt has committed itself to converting its entire energy supply to renewable energies by 2050. This means halving energy consumption and reducing CO₂ emissions by 95 per cent. The ‘Masterplan 100% Climate Protection’ study is the basis for this, containing scenarios, strategies and measures to achieve this aim.

Since the founding of the Energy Agency and the co-founding of the Climate Alliance in 1990, Frankfurt has put a great deal of effort into climate protection. In 2012, the City Council

Frankfurt is home to the largest number of passive solar houses and efficient office buildings in all of Germany



decided to convert the city's entire energy supply to renewable energies by 2050 and to develop the 'Masterplan 100% Climate Protection' for its implementation.

The ambitious goals of the 'Masterplan 100% Climate Protection' call for both intensive interdepartmental cooperation within the city administration and mutual involvement in concepts such as the mobility strategy and the urban development concept IStEK, which are currently being developed. The Masterplan focuses on three areas: heat, electricity and local traffic. Not only must consumption be cut drastically, demand and supply must also be aligned and optimised.

Frankfurt is also the first city in Germany to reward electricity saving with a cash bonus. People who reduce their electricity consumption

by at least 10 percent within a year receive a bonus of 20 euros from the city plus 10 cents for every additional kilowatt-hour saved.

Known to be a global economic hub, Frankfurt has the required green ethos to bring the city to the forefront of sustainable living. Setting an example for the rest of the world, the city continues to develop ambitious solutions towards sustainability.

Workshop Unveils Action Plan To Update UAE National Strategy To Combat Desertification

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) organised a workshop on July 19 and 20 to update the National Strategy to Combat Desertification. The workshop was organised in line with its efforts to prevent and reverse land degradation and meet the UAE's commitment to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).



The gathering drew strong participation of government officials, representatives of academia, and experts from research centres with a focus on determining the outline and objectives of the National Strategy to Combat Desertification 2022-2030. They also developed an action plan to involve relevant sectors in the implementation of the strategy.

In his opening speech, Dr. Nasir Sultan, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for the Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at MoCCA, said, "Safeguarding its land from degradation and drought is a cornerstone of the UAE's environmental protection drive. Over the past decades, the UAE has established an integrated legislative framework to halt desertification and expand green areas across the country."

He noted that the UAE ratified the UNCCD in

1998 and developed the first national strategy to combat desertification in 2003 which was updated in 2014.

He added, "The UAE's efforts to combat desertification also include regional and global measures that address desertification and promote the transformation of desert land into agricultural land. These have led to an increased adoption of sustainable agriculture practices, planting of salt- and drought-tolerant crop, and usage of treated wastewater for irrigation, as well as driving rain enhancement research, and raising public awareness about desertification."

In its fight against desertification, the UAE continues to roll out tree-planting initiatives and expand its protected areas - which span 15.5 percent of the country's territory.

UAQ Ruler Briefed About Emirate's Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy

H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Quwain, was briefed on Wednesday about the implementation of the emirate's Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy 2031.

While receiving Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, Sheikh Saud was also briefed about the progress of the implementation



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of the strategy covering eight key sectors - environmental tourism, fisheries, sustainable industrial zones, maritime transport, research and development, green carbon, environmental diversity services and the social sector.

Under the strategy, the key transformational projects include increasing the size of the emirate's nature reserves, allocating three carbon-neutral urban areas, launching an international centre for growing and exporting mangroves, and supporting the transformation of local industries to an environmentally friendly industrial model.

The projects also include key partnerships with the private sector, launching a centre to support entrepreneurship in the blue economy sector, and creating investment opportunities by attracting more than 100 companies and investors.

Impact of ban on single-use plastic bags

Dr. Suhail Al Bastaki, Director of Happiness and Marketing Department at Union Coop, has confirmed that consumers had interacted positively with the decision to limit single-use plastic bags since its implementation on July 1, 2022, adding that consumers are using recyclable and environmentally friendly bags.

He pointed out that most consumers are buying high-quality and multi-use bags, which eliminates the need to purchase single-use plastic bags.

The cooperative continues to provide approved alternatives to single-use bags, calling for avoiding the use of plastic bags in general because of their damage to the environment and choosing a sustainable lifestyle to help protect the environment and its diversity.

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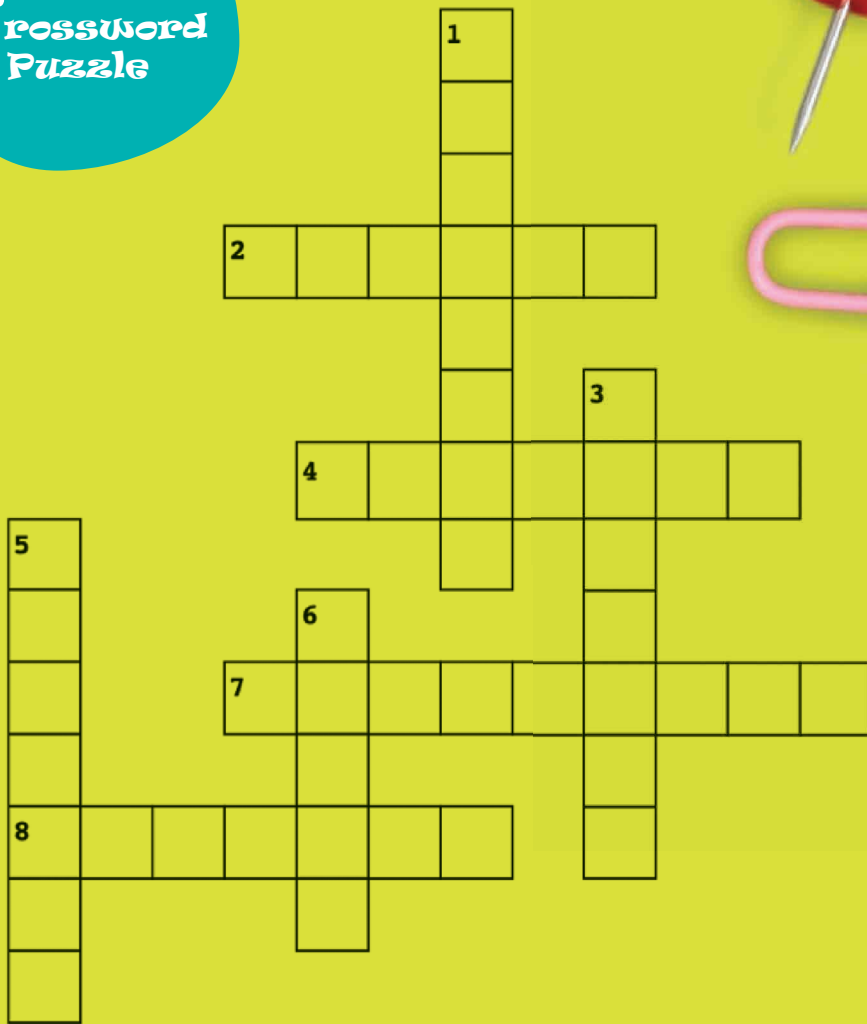
Answers: 1) Plains 2) Global 3) Forests 4) Wildlife 5) Coastal 6) Flora 7) Mountains 8) Protection

Word Search

E	L	B	A	N	I	A	T	S	U	S	R	N	A
E	G	N	G	Y	T	R	C	O	S	C	M	I	E
R	N	Y	N	Y	R	E	N	E	E	R	G	L	L
S	E	N	L	E	N	O	L	C	U	U	N	O	R
T	S	C	M	O	R	O	M	C	T	S	E	R	A
D	O	T	R	E	R	O	E	I	Y	O	C	E	S
N	C	E	O	T	E	U	T	M	S	C	N	T	S
P	E	E	O	R	O	R	I	O	E	A	E	C	L
L	A	N	S	G	M	G	G	N	N	R	T	R	J
A	N	O	G	C	G	A	E	S	N	A	E	S	U
T	M	B	U	U	N	E	R	O	S	S	G	R	N
E	L	R	A	B	T	R	S	O	N	S	O	N	G
A	S	A	O	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	U	L
U	G	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	T	R	A	L	E

- RECYCLE
- MONSOON
- CARBON
- STORM
- JUNGLE
- ENDANGER
- TIGERS
- GREENERY
- SUSTAINABLE
- OCEAN
- PLATEAU
- CONSUME

Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Enclosure for birds
4. Keep something going
7. Heavy downpour
8. No longer in existence

Down

1. Life form
3. Natural home
5. Area of flat raised land
6. All the animal life in a particular region

Answers: 1) Organism 2) Aviary 3) Habitat 4) Sustain 5) Plateau 6) Fauna 7) Rainstorm 8) Extinct

WORD OF THE DAY:

NATURAL DISASTER

Disasters can be natural or man-made. Natural disasters are caused by nature, such as tornadoes, ice storms, severe weather, and flooding. Too much rain and snow, or heavy winds can topple and uproot trees, cause damage to homes and buildings, and cut off electricity, water and telephones. Sometimes, violent weather can cause people to get hurt.

There are plenty of categories that we can use to distinguish natural disasters, but the fundamental three are:

- Geological disasters
- Hydrological disasters
- Meteorological disasters

These basic categorisations, however, have been blurred in recent years with the growing threat of climate change. Natural disasters that scientists predict may not have happened either with as much frequency or intensity which has been caused by the warmer climate, the rising sea levels, and the breakdown of ecosystems. In this way, the definition of what is a natural disaster and a man-made disaster in Geography is less clear than it has been previously.

Geological Natural Disasters

Avalanches and Landslides: This is when material runs down a slope of some kind. In the case of an avalanche, this will be snow that has either built up in a vulnerable position or fallen because of a sudden warm climate that has weakened the structure of the ice underneath. Landslides occur because of weakened material on mountainsides.



Earthquakes: When the earth's crust moves, and two plates either converge or shift over one another, a huge amount of energy is released. An earthquake is a result of that energy transferring into seismic waves, which move everything around it.

Volcanic eruptions: Volcanic eruptions are also a result of the energy that is generated by the movement of tectonic plates. When the earth's crust generates this energy, some of this travels in the form of heat.

Hydrological Natural Disasters

Floods: Floods are an influx of water in an area that is typically dry and is inhabited by humans, such as a city, town or village. This may be caused by unprecedented levels of rain that either flood valleys, or burst boundaries where water is ordinarily contained. It can also be caused by the sudden melting of glaciers.

Tsunamis: This natural disaster occurs when the earthquake's seismic waves have a repercussion on the water.

Meteorological Natural Disasters

Cyclones/ Hurricane: A hurricane occurs when warm moist air begins to rise over the water. When this process continues, large swathes of heavy clouds start to swirl. When a cyclone reaches land it can be dangerous because it inflicts extreme winds, rainfall, and flooding that can have detrimental effects on the area.

Heatwaves and droughts- These are significant

periods of excessively hot weather, which can cause a number of issues, such as deaths from overheating, crop failure, and wildfires.

Blizzards and hail storms - This is when high winds stir up snow that has already fallen, obstructing travel, medical care, and agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL OWL AWARENESS DAY - AUGUST 4

Owls have long captivated us with their mystery and perceived wisdom, but their representation in pop culture media, folklore, and material possessions does not always do these magical creatures justice.

Despite their prominence in diverse international cultures, we often unintentionally harm our beloved owls. American Bird Conservancy and Partners in Flight (PFI) suggests that a third or more of owl species are in decline. As urban environments expand, habitat loss continues to be one of the main reasons for population decline in owl species. From road mortality and window collisions to deforestation and disturbances by well-intentioned enthusiasts; the human world can be a dangerous place for owls.

International Owl Awareness Day not only celebrates the humble owl, but it also educates the community on how they can join in on conserving and protecting these fantastic beasts.

WORLD LION DAY - AUGUST 10

Scientifically known as 'Panthero Leo,' lions are one of the most well-known and popular animal species. They are called the 'Kings of the Jungle' due to their arresting and fearsome personalities created by their great bodies and shiny manes.

However, while lions existed in large populations 100 years ago, today, their numbers are just below 50,000 worldwide as a result of poaching and hunting. World Lion Day, therefore, brings attention to this endangered species by raising funds and amping up protective measures.

Three million years ago, lions roamed all over Africa

and the Eurasian supercontinent. But today their range is reduced primarily to Africa and select parts of Asia.

The first World Lion Day came into being in 2013. It was headed by Dereck and Beverly Joubert, a couple who are passionate about preservation of these wild cats. On realizing that lion populations have drastically decreased worldwide, the Jouberts approached *National Geographic* for help. Together they launched the Big Cat Rescue which is the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to big cats.

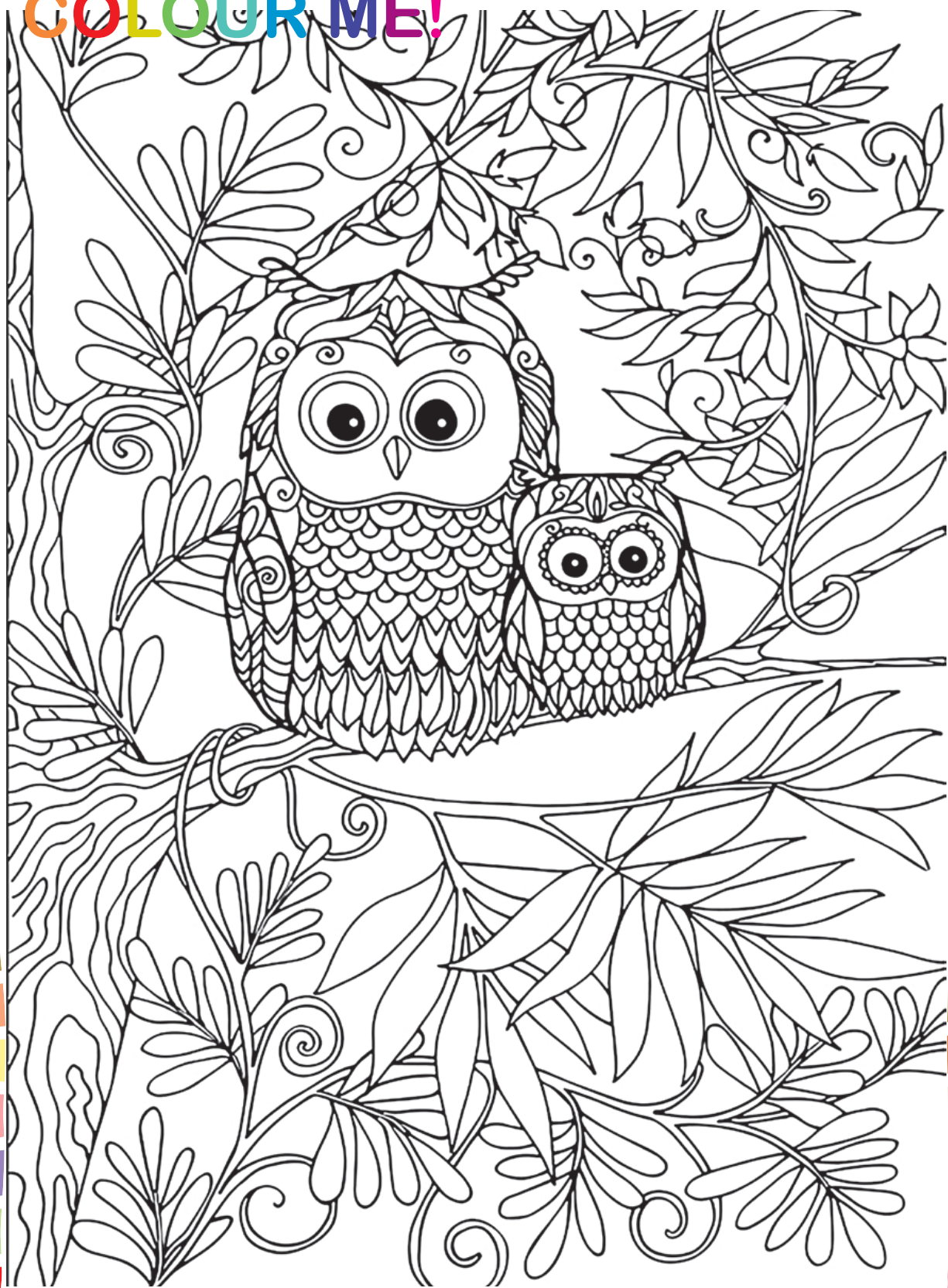


What can you do to help?

Things to Do...

- Reuse paper
- Switch off all plugs when not in use
- Grow a plant
- Don't waste food
- Carry a reusable bag to the market!

COLOUR ME!



UAE launches Power-to-Liquids Roadmap

Eng. Sharif Al Olama, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure for the Energy and Petroleum Sector, has said that achieving the Principles of the 50 and the efforts to enhance the country's overall stature, including in the energy sector, requires greater cooperation between government authorities and the private sector. He made this statement during the launch of the 'Power-to-Liquids

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Roadmap: Fuelling the Aviation Energy Transition in the United Arab Emirates', which was drafted in cooperation between the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and the World Economic Forum. The PtL roadmap shows the financial, economic and environmental benefits of PtL in decarbonizing the UAE's aviation industry.

The event was attended by Eng. Yousef Al Ali, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Electricity, Water and Future Energy Sector, and several officials from national airlines and major companies operating in the sector.

Al Olama said the UAE has exerted significant efforts to launch distinguished projects and initiatives in the energy sector, most notably in clean energy, to support the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative and in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.

This white paper, published by the Forum's Clean Skies Tomorrow initiative in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and ICF International, sees Power-to-liquids sustainable aviation fuel (PtL SAF) production as the most important technology for the UAE to decarbonize aviation.

It says PtL offers a unique opportunity for the Emirates to leverage domestic resources, infrastructure and expertise to grow and decarbonize the economy.

The UAE is in an excellent strategic position to build a globally leading PtL industry. The analysis demonstrates that it will be financially beneficial, environmentally necessary and practical to deploy PtL capacity to decarbonize the country's aviation industry.

UN Warns Of Toxic Environmental Legacy For Ukraine, Region

Preliminary monitoring of the conflict in Ukraine points to significant impacts on urban and rural environments that could leave the country and region with a toxic legacy for generations to come.

This is according to initial impact monitoring conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and partner organizations.



Thousands of possible incidents of air, water and land pollution and the degradation of ecosystems, including risks to neighbouring countries, have been identified

The full range and severity of consequences will require verification and assessment, although thousands of possible incidents of air, water and land pollution and the degradation of ecosystems, including risks to neighbouring countries, have already been identified.

UNEP is supporting the Government of Ukraine on remote environmental impact monitoring and is preparing to undertake field-level impact assessments - expected to be a colossal task given the scale and geographical spread of reported incidents.

“The mapping and initial screening of environmental hazards only serves to confirm that war is quite literally toxic,” said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen. “The environment is about people: it’s about livelihoods, public health, clean air and water,

The full range and severity of consequences will require verification and assessment



and basic food systems. Ukraine will then need huge international support to assess, mitigate and remediate the damage across the country, and alleviate risks to the wider region.”

According to UNEP and partner data, the conflict has seen damage across many regions of the country, with incidents at nuclear power plants and facilities, energy infrastructure, including oil storage tankers, oil refineries, drilling platforms and gas facilities and distribution pipelines, mines and industrial sites and agro-processing facilities.

The result has been multiple air pollution incidents and potentially serious contamination of ground and surface waters.

Water infrastructure, including pumping stations, purification plants and sewage facilities, has also suffered significant damage, and multiple

industrial facilities, warehouses and factories have been damaged, some storing a range of hazardous substances ranging from solvents to ammonia and plastics.

Hazardous substances have also been released from explosions in agro-industrial storage facilities, including fertilizer and nitric acid plants. There are also reports of the targeting of several large livestock farms, where livestock carcasses pose a further public health risk.

In many urban areas the clean-up of destroyed housing will bring its own challenges, with debris likely to be mixed with hazardous materials, particularly asbestos. Satellite imagery has also shown a significant increase of fires in various nature reserves and protected areas, as well as forested areas.

UN Calls For Urgent Action To Address Global Food Security Crisis

A joint statement calling for urgent action to address the global food security crisis has been issued by the heads of leading UN agencies. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director General Qu Dongyu, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, World Bank Group (WBG) President David Malpass, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David



The COVID-19 pandemic, interruptions in international supply chains, and the war in Ukraine have severely disrupted food, fuel, and fertilizer markets

Beasley and World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala issued the following joint statement calling for urgent action to address the global food security crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic, interruptions in international supply chains, and the developments in Ukraine have severely disrupted food, fuel, and fertilizer markets, which are interlinked. By June 2022 the number of acute food insecure people - whose access to food in the short term has been restricted to the point that their lives and livelihoods are at risk - increased to 345 million in 82 countries, according to WFP.

“Making matters worse, around 25 countries have reacted to higher food prices by adopting export restrictions affecting over 8 percent of global food trade. In addition, complicating the

By June 2022 the number of acute food insecure increased to 345 million in 82 countries, according to World Food Programme



food supply response is the doubling of fertilizer prices over the last 12 months, reflecting record-high costs of inputs such as natural gas.

“Avoiding further setbacks to achieving the SDGs requires short and long-term actions in four key areas: (i) providing immediate support to the vulnerable, (ii) facilitating trade and international supply of food, (iii) boosting production and (iv) investing in climate-resilient agriculture.

“It is important to support developing countries hurt by price increases and shortages to meet their urgent needs without derailing longer-term development goals. Assuring that the most vulnerable countries can cover the cost of the increase in their food import bill to minimize any risk of social unrest is essential. Development financing should provide clients with viable alternatives to inward-looking policies such as

export bans or blanket subsidies of fertilizer imports. Investments in scalable safety nets and climate resilient agriculture and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are good win-win examples.

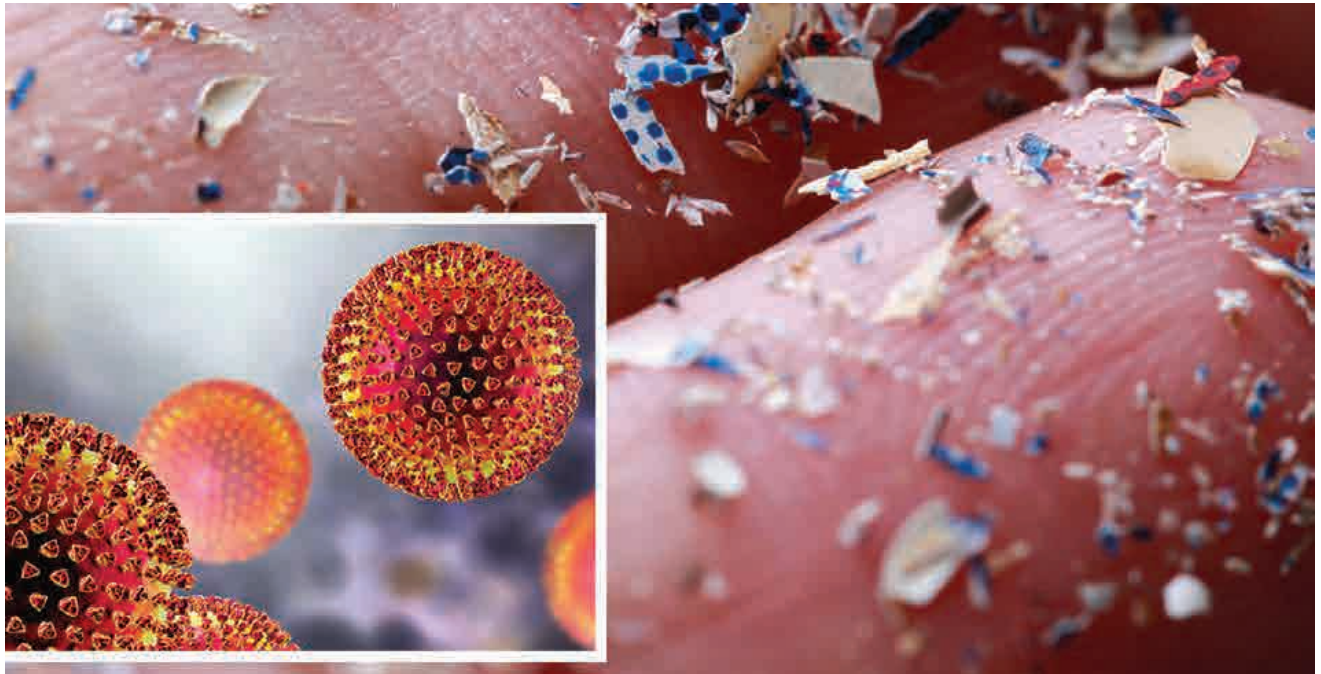
“We call for countries to strengthen safety nets, facilitate trade, boost production, and invest in resilient agriculture. Country-specific needs should be identified and defined through a country-based process that mobilizes investments from multilateral development banks to connect short-, medium- and long-term opportunities. And we commit to working together to support this process through the Global Alliance for Food Security to monitor the drivers and the impact of higher prices and help ensure that investment, financing, data, and best-practice knowledge are available to all countries in need.”

'Microplastics Can Carry Viruses'

Last April, I told you on this page that microplastics are present in drinking water and in the air, ocean, and rivers. I also mentioned that, according to the World Health Organisation, researchers have found microplastics in the human blood which are a potential health risk if it reaches the brain!

This month, we explore another serious impact of microplastics with the new discovery that viruses attached to microplastics in water can spread dangerous infections.

Research conducted at the University of Stirling, Scotland, and published in the



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

journal, *Environmental Pollution*, reveals that certain viruses can stay infectious by attaching themselves to microplastics in a freshwater environment. Led by Prof. Richard Quilliam, the study states that viruses can survive for 3 days or longer in fresh water when they attach themselves to microplastics.

As I mentioned in my previous columns, the oceans and seas receive more than 10 million tons of plastic waste annually. This has led to the proliferation of microplastics in the marine environment, and possibly as many as 125 trillion particles of less than 5 microns in length are floating in our oceans and seas.

In the water, microplastics can be infected with different kinds of microbes in 'plastispheres' or the synthetic marine ecosystem and cause infections especially when they reach water treatment plants. This is a new area of research, and more studies are needed to quantify the rate of infection in the drinking water, sea water, and the air that we breathe.

I think it is time for all media and social media to step up and raise awareness. We need very extensive educational and environmental awareness campaigns to lower plastic use, especially single-use plastic which can be given up easily without impacting our lifestyles.

Plastic is a menace to both our health and the environment. It is 'an enemy' and we must prevent its entry into our homes.



”التعليم مثل الفانوس الذي
يضيء طريقك في زقاق مظلم“

الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان



في معهد جوته سوف تحرز تقدماً سريعاً في تعلم اللغة
الألمانية وتعزز قدراتك التواصلية والثقافية.

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هاتف: +971 6 4709870

Info: Dubai@goethe.de

www.goethe.de/gulfregion



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