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بمناسبة اعلان عام 2023

"عام الإستدامة"



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Chairman's Message

The announcement of 2023 as the Year of Sustainability in the UAE, made by President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is a testament to the country's significant efforts in sustainability and environmental preservation.

Since its founding in the 1970s, the UAE has taken the lead in driving global efforts to support climate action. A signatory of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1989, the UAE joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 to support this important movement. In 2005, the UAE ratified the Kyoto Protocol, a binding agreement for developed countries to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The UAE reinforced its status as a pioneer in driving the sustainability agenda in 2015 when it became the first in the region to ratify the Paris Agreement and later, declared its climate neutrality strategy initiative, the UAE Net Zero by 2050.

The celebration of the 26th National Environment Day in February under the theme, “Towards a Sustainable Future”, further aligns with the vision of the “Year



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

of Sustainability” as the UAE gears up to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) this year at Expo City Dubai from 30th November to 12th December.

The UAE's efforts in designing and building sustainable goals to fulfil its Net Zero ambitions is based on strategic outcomes and global collaboration that aim to foster community-based, social, environmental, and economic value creation.

Sustainability has always been at the heart of the UAE's operations. Today, as the message of climate change grows ever stronger, the UAE's continued investments in the clean energy sector, promising technologies and infrastructure demonstrates the country's commitment and leadership in the transition toward a national and regional green growth pathway.

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Cement factories in Sharjah honored for lowering emissions



FORUM: Leading global and national experts participate in 6th International Rain Enhancement Forum in Abu Dhabi



Upcoming events

ICWRM

Date: February 17 - 19

Location: Singapore

The 4th International Conference on Waste Recycling and Management aims to provide a forum for discussion of electronics communication technologies and will address the unique challenges of these fields. The three-day forum will also attract a multi-stakeholder attendance connecting waste recycling and management and other stakeholders who are involved in the development.

Topics addressed at the event include Pollution Control Technologies, Environmental Pollution, Industrial waste management, Solid waste management, Recycling and Upcycling, Plastic waste management, Incineration, Waste to Energy, Waste governance, Composting, Waste minimization, and Wastewater management, amongst others.

SPIREC

Date: February 20 - 23

Location: Madrid, Spain

Despite the unprecedented global energy crisis and commitments to climate change, the energy transition is at standstill. The Spanish International Conference on Renewable Energy (SPIREC) aims to turn the biggest global energy crisis in history into a game changing opportunity to build a more secure, resilient – and sustainable – energy system, bringing a new economy on. Over 60 high level representatives, renewable energy top voices and other sectors' leaders will join to debate on energy security and sovereignty with renewables, meeting the energy demand in all sectors or anchoring renewables at the heart of society, amongst other topics.

WWETT 2023

Date: February 20-23

Location: Indianapolis, USA

The Water & Wastewater Equipment, Treatment & Transport Show is the world's largest annual trade show for environmental service professionals. Attended by 4,200 companies each year, the WWETT Show offers the latest products, technologies, and knowledge related to the water, wastewater and environmental service industry.

Zayed International Foundation For The Environment Hosts First 'World Café' Under The Slogan, 'Wisdom Fuelling The Future!'



With a leading group of environmentalists, scientists and thought leaders, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment explored the roadmap to a better future as it kickstarted its activities in the new year by hosting its first 'World Café' under the slogan, 'Wisdom Fuelling the Future!'

In preparation for the upcoming 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 28) to be hosted in Dubai, UAE, the two-day event held on January 31 and February 1 at the Officers Club, Dubai Police Academy, called for 'a serious global stocktaking' as the progress in worldwide efforts towards fulfilling the vision of a sustainable world has, till date, shown very little positive outcome.

Against this backdrop, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment's first 'World

Café' platform sought to bring about a conscious shift in developing inner abilities to deepen our sense of life and enable mankind to live more purposeful, sustainable, and productive lives.

The event aimed at bringing the "humanware" into dialogue and 'crowd-source' wisdom to co-create value to accelerate human growth and collective learning vital for unlocking practical solutions for the ongoing climate crisis.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, stated how shortsighted political considerations are the main barriers impeding the implementation of true solutions for environmental problems worldwide.

Discussing how the world has adapted and moved

Led by scientists, environmentalists and experts, the session urged participants to connect on a deeper level through the exploration of the IDGs (Inner Development Goals) in preparation for COP28 UAE



on after the pandemic demonstrating its agility and resilience, he noted that actions on the ground, irrespective of political or other agendas, were imperative to realise the Sustainable Development Goals. He affirmed that the Zayed Foundation is determined to be part of the solution and is committed to supporting international efforts to bring about the necessary changes.

Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, welcomed the honorable participants and described how an out-of-the-box approach to finding climate change solutions prompted the Zayed Foundation to open dialogue with scientists and experts to pave the way for a new path to COP 28.

He added that this is a continuation of the

Foundation's initiatives and programs undertaken since its establishment in 1999 by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The outcomes of the many declarations and initiatives of the Foundation have since been adopted by several UN organizations, he added, urging participants to remain mindful of the global ecosystem when discussing new ideas and roadmaps towards COP28.

'Humanware'

Introducing the workshop and the theme, 'Wisdom Fueling the Future' and discussing the need for renewed focus on the 'humanware' or 'knowledge and skills' as the new mindset change ahead of COP 28, Dr. Eisa Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, identified the need for new



effective and practical solutions to solve the climate change issues.

This requires reviewing basic concepts of environmental integrity, abandoning outdated paradigms, reconnecting with the past to explore old green values and traditions, reviving faith for green commands and directions and keeping an eye out for innovative and out-of-the-box initiatives and ideas, he said.

A paradigm shift from seeking 'Smart' solutions to 'Wise' solutions brings to the forefront 'human' solutions as opposed to 'technological' solutions, facilitating the change in humans from a state of being 'unaware' to becoming more 'aware' through the innate power of wisdom, knowledge and skills. The key tools to bring about this shift in 'humanware' are education, raising awareness, and training, he said.

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif further pointed out that we now think of Sustainable Development as a triangle of 'Economic, Social & Environmental dimensions' only, forgetting that 'Partnerships and Participation' are far more critical in finding solutions that are grass rooted, easier to implement, and bring greater benefits to communities.

Taking joint responsibility by all stakeholders including the government and civil society, individuals and private sector organisations will lead to greater transparency and accountability and bring about the real change to make the world more sustainable, he concluded.

Expanding Consciousness

In his presentation, Dr. Charles Savage, President and Mentor, Knowledge Era Enterprising (KEE) International, and a Professor of Business and

Scale360° initiative highlights three areas to take action in during 2023: plastic action, industry transformation and critical material



Sustainability, stated that there was an urgent need to fuel the “Future with Wisdom” to overcome the ‘Consciousness Crisis’ and learn to live lightly, lively and wisely. Alluding to the UAE’s pearl diving heritage, he said the shift from the ‘Optics of Light to the Optics of Insights’ would help mankind discover the pearls of both intuition and wisdom.

To accelerate regenerative responses to the climate crisis, Dr. Savage added that a “consciousness shift” will enable humans to address the climate crisis through the lens of expanding consciousness.

This enables the transition in thinking from quantity to quality, from thinking about Money to thinking about Meaning, from Linear Economy (Capitalism) to Circular Economy (Earth4All Economies), from Fossil Fuels to Renewables, from Self-Interest to Self-Responsibility and

from thinking negatively about each other to discovering insights about each other and energizing co-creativity.

Stating that the wisdom of the past and the challenges of the present will help co-create a wiser future, he outlined the need for a new language - “an Ecozoic language” to set humans from the endless pace of “consumptionism” to build a new order. Prof. Savage called for a third dramatic paradigm shift - from Technology to Wisdom - where the critical components spearheading this transition are “the dynamics of cross-pollinating insights between individuals in our reflective communities.” Stewarding such a global climate-conscious community will help accelerate bold action and generate change faster and more creatively, he concluded.

Inner Development Goals

Nadine Zidani, the UAE Hub representative of the IDGs (Inner Development Goals), reinforced that the IDGs are accelerators to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to create a prosperous future for all of humanity.

Zidani called on all attendees to actively participate in adapting the IDGs to the GCC region, noting that through openness, learning, collaboration, and hope, it is possible to bring the power of inner development to global challenges faced by humanity. The chief aim is to educate, inspire and empower people to be a positive force for change in society and find a more purposeful way to look at our lives, she said.

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment was represented by Hassan Bilal and Fatma Alhabshi who enriched the World Café discussions with the Ministry’s perspectives on the subject.

The session also hosted Hanane Benkhallouk,



best-selling author of *SEEDS of Change*, which explores ways to learn how to surf the wave of disruption and navigate in an ever-changing business landscape.

Other participants at the event included Sameera Fernandes from Century Financial; Purnima Sabnis from EFS Facilities Services Group (EFS); Omar Al Nuaimi from Emirates Group and a host of students and faculty from leading academic institutions including Dr. Nada Sayarh Lebbar, Associate Professor of Marketing & Assistant Dean at SP Jain; Dr. Dalia Osama Hafiz, Assistant Professor (College of Architecture, Art, and Design) at Ajman University; and Reem Assim from the American University of Sharjah.

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment will hold a follow up “Wisdom Café” workshop shortly with more participants from

the government, businesses, NGOs, universities and schools.

The main partners for the January edition of the workshop included the Dubai Police Academy and Ministry of Climate Change & Environment. Sponsors of the event were FloWater, who also supplied filtered water, The Babyshop, Dubai Duty Free and Radiant Aurora.



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UAE President announces 2023 as 'Year of Sustainability'

UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has announced that 2023 will be the "Year of Sustainability". The "Year of Sustainability" will include several initiatives, activities and events that draw upon the UAE's deep-rooted values of sustainability and the legacy of its founder, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. It will also focus on environmental sustainability by



The "Year of Sustainability" solidifies the UAE's commitment in addressing current challenges and promoting sustainable practices at an individual and community level

inspiring collective action through a nationwide commitment towards sustainable practices, in line with the UAE's national strategy, bringing together everyone who calls the UAE home to work towards a prosperous future.

The year also aims to showcase the UAE's commitment towards fostering a global collaboration in seeking innovative solutions to challenges, such as energy, climate change and other pressing issues related to sustainability.

The year-long initiatives are overseen by H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court; and H.H. Sheikhha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said, "Sustainability has been a fundamental principle

The nation is an exceptional model for environmental conservation and resource management



in the UAE since its unification. The nation is an exceptional model for environmental conservation and resource management. The late Sheikh Zayed was a global leader in environmental and climate action, leaving behind a legacy that we continue to follow today."

His Highness added, "Today for Tomorrow" embodies the UAE's approach and commitment to sustainability and its responsibility to protect the future. By working, making efforts and initiating actions today, we are ensuring that we leave behind a legacy of stewardship for future generations, just as our ancestors did for us."

His Highness also emphasised that the Year of Sustainability has particular significance as the UAE prepares to host the 28th United Nations climate change summit, Conference of Parties (COP28). He stated that the UAE is determined for COP28 to set a precedent in the collective

global efforts to address climate change.

His Highness also invited community members and institutions to engage with the initiatives and activities of the Year of Sustainability and come together in collective efforts that lead the nation towards a more sustainable future.

The "Year of Sustainability" solidifies the UAE's commitment in addressing current challenges and promoting sustainable practices at an individual and community level. Notable examples include the "Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative", which details the country's commitment to promote environmental protection, and its efforts to create thriving communities ideal for living and working.

The announcement comes following the successful conclusion of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023, which saw the participation of



numerous state leaders and officials worldwide. This further cements the UAE's position as a leader in promoting sustainability awareness both domestically and internationally and reinforces its commitment to tackling the challenges associated with it.

The UAE has long been a leader in promoting clean energy and building effective partnerships for the benefit of the global community. One notable partnership is the UAE-US Partnership for Accelerating Clean Energy, which will catalyse USD100 billion in financing and other support in addition to deploying 100 new gigawatts (GW) of clean energy in the US, UAE and emerging economies around the world by 2035.

COP28

2023 is a critical year in a critical decade for climate action and the UAE is approaching COP28

with a strong sense of responsibility as it champions an inclusive agenda that ramps up action on mitigation, encourages a just energy transition that leaves no one behind, ensures substantial, affordable climate finance is directed to the most vulnerable, accelerates funding for adaptation and builds out a robust funding facility to address loss and damage. As the COP28 host, the UAE will also aim to build consensus and coalitions to achieve a practical, pragmatic and just energy transition and reform land use and food systems.

As a nation at the crossroads of the globe, the UAE is well-positioned to build bridges, foster consensus and bring the world together in one shared mission to keep 1.5C alive and pursue balanced, ambitious, and inclusive outcomes as a hopeful legacy for future generations.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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UAE



Congratulations to

His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

President of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
and Ruler of Dubai

AND THEIR HIGHNESS MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, RULERS OF THE EMIRATES

AND THE PEOPLE OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On the occasion of declaring year 2023

"The Year Of Sustainability"



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National Environment Day An Occasion To Preserve Natural Resources: Almheiri

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has said that celebrating the 26th UAE National Environment Day is an occasion that enhances environmental efforts to preserve natural resources, their ecosystems and their biological diversity.

Almheiri thanked President His Highness Sheikh



The UAE was the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to ratify the Paris Agreement and commit to reducing carbon emissions

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his unwavering support to the efforts aimed at protecting the environment, in continuation of the approach of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, which manifested in adopting integrated policies, legislation and strategies aimed at achieving sustainability in all sectors.

In her statement, the Minister emphasised that celebrating the 26th National Environment Day aligns with the UAE's declaration of 2023 as the "Year of Sustainability", in preparation for the UAE hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) this year in Expo City Dubai from Nov 30 to Dec 12.

She said that this year's slogan, "Towards a Sustainable Future", underscores the need to find sustainable practical solutions to climate and environmental challenges, ensure a

Under the slogan, “Towards a Sustainable Future”, the UAE underscores the need to find sustainable practical solutions to climate and environmental challenges



sustainable future for future generations by doubling efforts to reduce emissions, and adapt and adopt the latest technologies.

The slogan also reflects the need to adapt to the repercussions of climate change through a realistic and comprehensive methodology that focuses on devising practical solutions and preserving the balance of natural life, in order to enhance ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and responsibly produce and consume.

Almheiri stressed that the UAE attaches great importance to the involvement of all segments of society in these efforts and to contribute to creating a better future for humanity, and to explore innovative solutions that are economically applicable to transform challenges into opportunities, in line with achieving the vision of the UAE Centennial 2071.

The UAE was the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to ratify the Paris Agreement and commit to reducing carbon emissions, she stated, highlighting the great efforts exerted by the country to preserve biodiversity in line with its climate ambitions formulated by the wise leadership's vision of creating opportunities for sustainable economic and social growth, in addition to launching the National Strategy for Food Security, which aims to develop a comprehensive national system based on the foundations of enabling sustainable food production.

The minister concluded by welcoming the participation of government and private sectors, as well as individuals, to find effective solutions to the repercussions of climate change and their resulting effects on other sectors.

“Mission To Zero Government Challenge” Launched To Reduce Single-Use Products

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has launched the “Mission to Zero Government Challenge” to encourage government organisations in the emirate to transition away from single-use products as part of EAD’s Single-Use Plastic Policy that was launched in March 2020.

Organisations must report results of the amount



of waste they generated and their percentage of reduction by the end March 2023, and the entity that records the highest amount of waste reduction will receive recognition.

In June 2022, a ban on single-use plastic bags became effective and EAD issued a guide for government organisations titled: ‘Becoming Free of Single-Use Products: A Guide for Abu Dhabi Government.’ Developed in both Arabic and English, the mission of the guide is to declare Abu Dhabi government entities free of single-use plastic and non-plastic materials by limiting their use and encourage a shift towards multi-use alternatives which are less harmful to the environment.

Examples of products that will be measured in the government entities include bags, cups and lids, cutlery, plates, stirrers, and bottles.

10th Afforestation Campaign for Al Muntather Reserve 2

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah (EPAA) organised the 10th Afforestation Campaign for Al Muntather Reserve 2 in the Al Bataeh area of Sharjah which attracted the participation of 280 volunteers who represented 46 government agencies and 1,500 students from 58 schools and three universities. Together, they planted 6,000 seedlings of different trees, such as Al Ghaf and Sidr.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of the EPAA, commended the contributions of the partners in helping achieve the ambitious goals of protecting and preserving the environment, including marine life and biodiversity.



Congratulations to

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AND THEIR HIGHNESS MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, RULERS OF THE EMIRATES

AND THE PEOPLE OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On the occasion of declaring year 2023

"The Year Of Sustainability"


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Abu Dhabi Harnesses Space Technology To Monitor Vehicle Emissions

Abu Dhabi will begin remotely measuring vehicle emissions using advanced space technology on some of its busiest roads as part of a major drive to boost air quality. The remote-sensing tool aims to collect real-time data on various kinds of pollutants emitted on the roads.

In partnership with 4 Earth Intelligence



The hi-tech device will be installed at six locations in the capital to monitor pollutants emitted from the exhaust pipes of moving vehicles in real time

Environmental Consultancy LLC (4EI) and Hager Environmental & Atmospheric Technologies (HEAT) of the US, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) will be using HEAT's patented NASA Spinoff remote-sensing system, EDAR (Emissions Detection and Reporting), which will detect and quantify on-road emissions measurements using its laser-based overhead detectors in real time. The testing period, conducted across six different locations in Abu Dhabi, is scheduled for a period of three weeks.

Through this non-intrusive technology, EAD will be able to accurately detect and quantify various gases being emitted from the tailpipe of a moving vehicle in real time. This is in addition to identifying the vehicle license plate number, which is used only to acquire technical information of the vehicle, like brand, model, fuel type, emission standard and vehicle weight. No

The system can detect carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and nitrogen dioxide with high accuracy



personal data will be used in this study.

The initiative is a part of the Integrated Air Quality Management Programme established by EAD. The initiative will establish a baseline for future policies and regulations, identify the main emitting vehicle classes and technologies, and help support the design of effective mitigation measures. The study will also establish the input data for air quality modelling, develop local air and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission factors, while enhancing academic research and innovation projects.

Her Excellency Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary-General of EAD, said: "We know that the transport sector contributes to pollutants in the air and we want to be scientifically certain that we have the latest research at hand to be able to make correct and well-informed decisions.

This will facilitate our capability to implement the most effective policies for the greater good of the community. We are keen to use advanced technology and, through remote sensing of vehicle emissions, we will be able to gather real-time data without disrupting traffic. Using the accumulated data, we will be able to devise mitigation plans and programmes so that we can reduce emissions entering the air we breathe, further improving residents' safety and wellbeing."

EAD will also partner with three significant entities in Abu Dhabi, which include Abu Dhabi Police, Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) and Integrated Transport Centre (ITC). The project entails EAD remotely measuring vehicle emissions on the roads of Abu Dhabi using cutting edge, state-of-the-art technology.

Through the partnership, Abu Dhabi Police will be



responsible for the technical information of the vehicles and traffic management during the monitoring and data collection exercise. DMT will be providing the permits to place EDAR remote sensing equipment on the side of the road and will also manage all other authorisations and approvals. ITC will coordinate traffic flow information and site selection recommendations, such as toll gates, bridges etc.

By using this advanced technology, EAD will be able to automatically process the collected data and coordinate with the concerned authorities to match the remote sensing information and data with those in the vehicle registration databases in the emirate.

During the study period, detailed analysis of the data to be collected (such as emissions in kilometres travelled, vehicle type, model year,

payload, etc.) will be provided, which will help develop recommendations to reduce the effects of air pollution caused by vehicles.

Remote sensing systems use absorption spectroscopy to non-intrusively measure pollutant concentrations in the exhaust plumes of in-use vehicles. A light source is placed above a roadway, with the instrument oriented so that the light beam produced by the source traverses the exhaust plumes of passing vehicles.

Each remote sensing measurement lasts for less than one second and yields an estimate of the concentration of pollutants in the exhaust plume. Remote-sensing systems measure nitrogen monoxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and particulate matter (PM).



تهانينا

إلى مقام صاحب السمو

الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان رئيس الدولة "حفظه الله"

وإلى مقام صاحب السمو

الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء - حاكم دبي "رعاه الله"

وإلى إخوانهما أصحاب السمو الشيوخ أعضاء المجلس الأعلى للاتحاد - حكام الإمارات

وإلى شعب دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

بمناسبة اعلان عام 2023

"عام الإستدامة"



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UAE Circular Economy Council Discusses 'Year Of Sustainability' Initiatives And COP28

In the presence of H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, CEO of Alliances for Global Sustainability, the UAE Circular Economy Council convened its meeting, presided over by Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment to discuss 'Year of Sustainability' initiatives and COP28. The meeting was attended by Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy; Omar

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COP28



The Council highlighted the need for cross-industry collaboration, transparency, and access to information, to ensure the success of several waste management and decarbonization initiatives that are currently underway

Suwaina Al Suwaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology; Dawood Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality; Abdulrahman Al Nuaimi, Director General of the Municipality and Planning Department in Ajman; and a host of other prominent personalities representing the public and private sectors.

H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President & CEO of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA), commented: "The first meeting of the UAE Circular Economy Council in 2023 highlighted the need for cross-industry collaboration, transparency, and access to information, in order to ensure the success of several waste management and decarbonization initiatives that are currently underway. The UICCA is committed to creating open dialogue between

Council outlines commitment to adopting circular approaches and innovations to reduce GHG emissions



government entities and businesses, while providing structured policy recommendations that will be fundamental in the transition to the green economy.”

In her welcoming note, Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri said: “The “Year of Sustainability” enables the council to highlight the UAE’s extensive efforts to promote sustainable circularity ahead of COP28, and to showcase the country’s commitment towards fostering a global collaboration in seeking innovative solutions to challenges, such as energy, climate change and other pressing issues related to sustainability.”

“As the UAE hosts COP28 later this year, one of the priority items that must be demonstrated is our ability to adopt circular approaches and innovations to reduce our GHG emissions. Our commitment to global climate action, and the

UAE’s adoption of the National Net Zero by 2050 Pathway, presents our long-term emissions reduction targets as we aim to achieve 18 percent emission reduction compared to 2019 baseline by 2030,” she added.

The Minister also provided an overview of the results of a new joint report by the Ministry and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) on the state of the circular economy pathway in the UAE.

The report identifies relevant historic and recent trends, compares the UAE’s performance to that of other countries, and offers scenario projections for a greener and more circular UAE. Topics under the spotlight include waste generation, GHG emissions, natural capital, and the use and trade of secondary raw materials. The study also examines the consumption of materials, water, and energy, as well as the reuse



and recycling of materials, nutrients, and water.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Head of the Council's Circular Economy Policies Committee, noted that the Committee recently held intensive workshops and meetings to support the implementation of the UAE Circular Economy Policy in four key sectors – manufacturing, green infrastructure, transportation, and food production and consumption.

The Council reviewed the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP), which develops mutually profitable links between companies from all industrial sectors, so that underutilised resources such as energy and water, and/or materials from one company can be recovered, reprocessed and re-used by others.

Kristin Hughes from the World Economic Forum

updated Council members on the Scale360° initiative, to fast-track the adoption of the circular economy principles. She highlighted three priority areas for 2023: plastic action, industry transformation and critical material.

The meeting also featured an overview of BEEAH's efforts to implement a circular economy model in its operations as well as a presentation on the Single Use Plastic Policy in Abu Dhabi.

Stuart Fleming of EnviroServe showcased the company's experience in the circular economy sector; Haseeb Ur Rahman, Marketing Director, FrieslandCampina MENA, presented Rainbow Quality Milk company's case study on recycling their milk cans; and Faisal Falaknaz and Salwa Al Mflahi of Al Dar highlighted their journey to decarbonise waste.

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UAE



Congratulations to

His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

President of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
and Ruler of Dubai

**AND THEIR HIGHNESS MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME
COUNCIL, RULERS OF THE EMIRATES**

AND THE PEOPLE OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On the occasion of declaring year 2023

"The Year Of Sustainability"



'Global Climate Philanthropy Alliance For Climate And Nature' To Launch Ahead Of COP28

During the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2023, Badr Jafar, CEO of UAE-based Crescent Enterprises, co-hosted a high-level event on Climate and Nature Positive Philanthropy with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in the presence of Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the



Estimated USD100 trillion
required to achieve an
equitable climate and nature
transition by 2050

launching of a global alliance of leading philanthropists and philanthropic organisations with the aim to advance collective efforts in addressing climate, ocean and biodiversity goals, allowing for deeper collaboration and leveraging of resources.

The session was attended by Majid Al Suwaidi, Director-General of COP28, who delivered remarks on the UAE's vision for COP28 and the importance of harnessing the potential of all sources of capital, including philanthropic capital, to meet climate and nature objectives.

Other attendees included Fady Jameel, Deputy President and Vice Chairman, International of Abdul Latif Jameel; Dr. Tariq Al Gurg, CEO & Vice Chairman of Dubai Cares; Cherie Blair CBE, KC, Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women; and Hussain Sajwani, Chairman of

Today less than 2% of philanthropic capital is directed towards climate-related issues



Damac International. Lawrence Di Rita, Greater Washington DC Market President of Bank of America; Johan Eliasch, CEO of HEAD; Jacqueline Poh, Managing Director of Singapore Economic Development Board; Rishad Premji, Executive Chairman of Wipro; Andre Hoffmann, Vice-Chairman of Roche; and Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson of Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, were also in attendance at the session.

During his opening remarks, Prince Albert II of Monaco shared his thoughts on the collective role of the attendees, saying, "We are here to take action. To try and put an end to this strange situation where only a tiny fraction of philanthropic resources is allocated to an issue which undoubtedly has the most consequences on the future of humankind: the preservation of the environment. Let's take action, by persuading philanthropists to redirect and increase their

contributions, by creating financial and field-evaluation tools that will enable us to make these resources fully effective, by mobilising our contemporaries, businesses and institutions, and by encouraging multilateral institutions to be more ambitious."

The discussion highlighted the role the Global Philanthropy Alliance for Climate and Nature will have to advance collective efforts in addressing the climate crisis, specifically in leveraging resources to protect climate, ocean, and biodiversity.

The alliance would aim to forge a coordinated approach to foster effective solutions for long-term impact and create awareness and drive catalytic capital to unlock private finance and multilateral commitments to tackling climate change, with USD 100 trillion in funding estimated



to be required to achieve an equitable climate and nature transition by 2050.

Badr Jafar, CEO, Crescent Enterprises, said, "Launching this global alliance will also provide a platform for many across the global growth markets to engage and put forward solutions that are best suited to local requirements. This, in turn, will allow for the co-creation of innovative interventions in support of the COP28 agenda and beyond, and engage in constructive conversations with the private and public sectors to better identify opportunities for blended financing models."

Data shows that less than 2 percent of philanthropic capital is directed towards climate-related issues, although philanthropic foundation funding for climate change mitigation more than tripled over the past five years, growing from

USD 900 million to USD 3 billion annually. However, according to a ClimateWorks report, the top regions to receive climate change mitigation funding in 2021 were the United States, Canada, and Europe.

During the session, speakers discussed the urgent need to break down climate and nature silos and collaborate to scale up this funding and related impact. They discussed strategies to help raise awareness and catalyse capital to unlock private finance, necessary government regulation, and multilateral commitments across the climate-nature nexus.

The alliance will collaborate closely with the World Economic Forum's Giving to Amplify Earth Action (GAEA), a public-private-philanthropy partnership for climate and nature.

UAE's First EV Battery Recycling Facility To Open In Sharjah

BEEAH Recycling has signed an agreement with the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MOEI) and the American University of Sharjah (AUS) to collaborate on establishing the nation's first recycling plant for end-of-life batteries from electric vehicles.

The agreement was signed during the 2023 World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi at the

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Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure stand.

Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of BEEAH Group, was joined by Daker El-Rabaya, CEO of BEEAH Recycling, to sign the agreement with Sharif Salim Al Olama, Undersecretary of Energy and Petroleum Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and Prof. Juan Sanchez, Provost of the American University of Sharjah.

The EV battery recycling facility will be added to BEEAH Recycling's integrated waste management complex, which currently has 10 specialised waste processing and material recovery facilities that contribute to a 76 per cent waste diversion rate in Sharjah, the highest in the Middle East.

The addition of an EV battery recycling facility will help further increase landfill waste diversion in the future as more batteries from EVs approach

end-of-life. BEEAH Recycling, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and the American University of Sharjah have agreed to collaborate and identify world-class technologies for the EV battery recycling facility.

In a 2022 study, over 30 percent of UAE people were considering switching to electric vehicles. Projections show the EV market will grow at a CAGR of 30 percent between 2022 and 2028.

Elaborating on the agreement, El-Rabaya stated, "As BEEAH Recycling, we embody a zero-waste strategy to support the creation of a circular economy across industries. We want to advance our contributions to circularity and material recovery within the EV industry, which is critical to achieving net-zero emissions in the UAE and beyond."

Abdullah bin Zayed Unveils COP28 UAE Logo

The COP28 UAE Presidency has unveiled its new official logo and branding for the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place at Expo City Dubai from 30th November to 12th December 2023.

Led by the concept that we are all inhabitants of



Spherical design in light and dark green includes a collection of images including people, wildlife and nature

'One World', the spherical design in light and dark green includes a collection of diverse icons, from people and renewable energy technologies to wildlife and nature, encapsulated in one globe.

The imagery represents the wealth of humanity's natural and technological resources and emphasises the need for innovation across all sectors to drive inclusive and transformational sustainable development.

The design serves as a reminder to global communities to rally behind urgent climate action and embark on an inclusive pathway towards climate action. The visuals underscore the message that COP28 will be a COP for All that bridges the global north and south, and includes public and private sectors, scientists and civil society, women and youth, all of which are referenced in the iconography.

Led by the “one world” concept, the logo's design serves as a reminder to countries to support urgent climate action



COP28
UAE

It will also promote the message that COP28 is a COP of Action, which raises ambitions and moves from goals to achieving results across mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage.

Referencing the new logo, COP28 President-Designate, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, “We live in one world, a world where we need to collaborate and cooperate like never before to make the transformational progress needed to reach the Paris Agreement. COP28 will be a COP for Action and a COP for all, bringing together the global north and south and leaving no one behind.

“COP28 in the UAE will seek to find global consensus so that we can go further and faster and move from goals to getting it done.”

The new logo and branding will be applied across all COP28 UAE branding, including the newly launched website and on-site at Expo City Dubai.

The launch was attended by Mohammed Abdullah Al Junaibi, Chairman of Federal Protocol and Strategic Narrative Authority (FPSNA); Lt. Gen. Talal Humaid Belhoul, Director-General of State Security Department at Dubai Police; Major General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of the Abu Dhabi Police (ADP); and Major General Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Interior.

Other prominent dignitaries at the event included Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Former President of Iceland; Dr. Franz Tattenbach, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica; Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and Glenn Pearce, Director of International Relations and Special Projects at Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023 Successfully Concludes Setting UAE on Road to COP28

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) successfully concluded its 15th edition, with a resounding show of commitment to climate action ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), to be held in the UAE later this year.

Under the theme of 'United on Climate Action Towards COP28', the six-day event was the first



Held under the patronage of UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ADSW 2023 opening ceremony was attended by His Highness and 13 heads of state and prime ministers

global sustainability gathering of a critical year, and it served as the first official platform for the recently announced COP28 leadership team, led by H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President-Designate, and Chairman of Masdar.

In his keynote at the opening ceremony, H.E. Dr. Al Jaber called for the world to come together around COP28 to cooperate and collaborate and turn rhetoric into tangible results.

Global dignitaries, including 13 heads of state and a record number of attendees, convened to progress dialogue on the transition to a net-zero future. The event was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, who attended the opening ceremony with Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, and Ilham Aliyev,

ADSW 2023 hosted 36,000 participants from 170 countries, including 13 heads of state and more than 600 global speakers



President of Azerbaijan delivering keynote speeches. Championed by the UAE and its clean energy powerhouse, Masdar, ADSW 2023, also welcomed world leaders including Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; and Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles.

Other heads of nations at the event included João Manuel Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola; Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia; Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana; Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; Surangel Whipps Jr., President of the Republic of Palau; Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique; Aziz Akhannouch, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco; Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia; and Tiemoko Meyliet, Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

During the opening ceremony, 10 winners of the Zayed Sustainability Prize from five continents were recognized for their achievements in driving innovative and scalable sustainability solutions.

Other major events that took place throughout the week included the 13th IRENA Assembly, the supreme decision-making body of the International Renewable Energy Agency. IRENA members confirmed their readiness to support the UAE's COP28 presidency and committed to leveraging international cooperation through the Agency's global platform.

The Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum, which annually convenes the world's top energy and foreign policy decisionmakers hosted its seventh meeting at ADSW. Guests including H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial



Strategy for the UK, John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, and Bernard Mensah, President of International for Bank of America discussed the geopolitical and geo-economic implications of the energy transition.

The flagship ADSW Summit brought together global decision-makers and thought leaders in sustainability to discuss innovative pathways to net zero, practical solutions to finance climate action, and transformative tech for food and energy security.

The event featured past and present leaders of COP, including H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28; H.E. Laurent Fabius, President of France's Constitutional Council; H.E. Sameh Shoukry, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs and COP27 President; and Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary

of the UNFCCC. Collectively they highlighted the need to build on past successes and leverage the COP process to deliver on the Paris Agreement, ahead of the UAE's hosting of COP28 and the highly anticipated Global Stocktake.

The inaugural Green Hydrogen Summit was also held during ADSW. Hosted by Masdar's green hydrogen business, the Summit convened more than 50 leading global hydrogen players, gathering key representatives across regulation, policy and the green hydrogen value chain.

Masdar, the host of ADSW, announced multiple global projects and agreements showing it is on track to meet the target of 100 GW of clean energy by 2030. These included up to 5GW of renewable energy projects with three African nations under the Etihad 7 UAE-backed funding umbrella.

ADSW's first Green Hydrogen Summit discussed the development of the UAE hydrogen economy, green energy in Africa and hydrogen's value chain



Also announced were agreements with the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Energy to develop renewable projects with a capacity of up to 1 GW, an agreement with the Kazakhstan Investment Development Fund to develop a wind power plant with up to 1 GW capacity, and an agreement with Azerbaijan state oil company SOCCAR to develop up to 4 GW of renewable energy projects.

A first wave of investment of US\$20 billion was also announced as part of the US-UAE Partnership to Accelerate Clean Energy (PACE), with Masdar and a consortium of US private investors leading the funding and development of 15 GW of clean energy projects in the US by 2035.

ADSW provided a platform for engaging and empowering young people and women in sustainability in the lead-up to COP28. The Youth 4 Sustainability (Y4S) Hub brought together

more than 3,000 leaders, experts, entrepreneurs, and young delegates to discuss ways to advance youth engagement across climate action.

The annual Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy (WiSER) Forum hosted influential figures from around the world for a roundtable discussion on 'Empowering Women to Lead Climate Adaptation'.



10 Winners Of 2023 Zayed Sustainability Prize Honoured

UAE President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan presented awards to the 10 winners of the 2023 Zayed Sustainability Prize at the 2023 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) held in January.

The winners, across five categories, were awarded in the presence of UAE ministers and various heads of state, ministers, and other



The UAE's pioneering global award rewards small and medium-sized enterprises, nonprofit organisations and high schools around the world that are delivering impactful, innovative and inspiring solutions in health, food, energy and water.

senior-level dignitaries from the United Arab Emirates and abroad, in addition to past winners, and the 2023 finalists.

Reasserting the Prize's role as a global catalyst for sustainability and humanitarian action, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said, "The UAE continues to lead on important global initiatives at the heart of our mission to create a better future for all, both within the UAE and beyond our nation's borders. The bold ambition of the Zayed Sustainability Prize remains at the forefront of these efforts. It creates a pathway for delivering life-changing humanitarian aid and solutions to communities around the world."

As the UAE prepares to host the 28th session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, this year's awards serve as

Enterprising individuals and organisations were honoured for driving change in communities to create a better world



an important reminder of the need for greater international collaboration to mobilise climate action and create sustainable economic and social development opportunities across all nations, including the global south.

The USD 3 million Prize is the UAE's pioneering global award in sustainability that recognises and rewards small and medium-sized enterprises, nonprofit organisations and high schools that are delivering impactful, innovative and inspiring solutions in health, food, energy and water.

Through its 96 former winners, the Prize has transformed the lives of more than 378 million people around the world since 2008, including in Vietnam, Nepal, Sudan, Ethiopia, Maldives and Tuvalu. In the Health, Food, Energy, and Water categories, each winner receives USD 600,000, while the Global High Schools category has six

winners, representing six world regions, with each winner receiving up to USD 100,000.

His Highness also emphasised the need to develop bright young people into the critical thinkers and sustainability leaders of tomorrow, and praised the Prize's Global High Schools category, which empowers youth to play an active role in supporting their communities' socio-economic development.

Health

In the Health category, Brazil's Associação Expedicionários da Saúde (EDS) was awarded the Prize for its Mobile Hospital Complex, which provides specialised medical and surgical care for indigenous communities geographically isolated within the Amazon. The objective of the Mobile Hospital Complex is to reach the most difficult areas in the Amazon, guaranteeing the



safety and comfort of patients and excellence in the quality of services provided. Over the course of six expeditions from 2015 to 2022, the nonprofit organisation performed more than 1,900 surgeries that improved health outcomes, including improved vision after cataract surgery.

Food

Ynsect from France was the Food category winner for its important work in insect-based protein and natural fertilisers. The SME produces insect protein and natural insect fertilisers at Europe's first-of-its-kind insect factory equipped with innovative vertical farming and integrated biorefining setup.

Ynsect processes two insect species (molitor and buffalo mealworms) into high-end, high-value ingredients for the entire food chain—plants, fish, farmed animals, pets, and humans. Ynsect is

currently building a new factory in France and operates two other sites in France and the Netherlands. By 2025, Ynsect will be able to produce more than 1,500 tonnes of protein per month.

In the past five years, Ynsect has improved the lives of 30 million people by delivering sustainable, natural, premium nutrition products for fish farming (as an alternative fish feed to meet aquaculture's food supply needs) and human nutrition. The demo plant currently operated by the company produces 30 tonnes of protein production per month.

Energy

In the Energy category, the Jordan-based NeuroTech developed AI-based algorithms with a blockchain-based transaction system to bring reliable energy access to refugee camps. The

Since its launch in 2008, 96 winners have been recognised with the prize transforming the lives of more than 378 million people around the world



SME employs the concept of energy sharing by separating electrical loads into low- and high-priority streams. Thus, beneficiaries are guaranteed to receive their lifesaving energy, and extra energy goes to low-priority feeders, according to energy availability. Sophisticated energy management and control reduces electricity stress and increases consumer awareness about electricity.

During its pilot phase, NeuroTech helped deliver electrical power to more than 10,000 Syrian refugees in Azraq. By optimising energy usage and distribution, NeuroTech has helped reduce the pressure on the camp's main hospital respiratory section by making electricity available 24/7. Patients now can use a personal nebuliser, a medical device used during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for people with a chronic breathing illness.

Water

LEDARS (Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society), an NPO from Bangladesh, secured the Water category win for its integrated water resource management model that solves water scarcity issues in disaster-prone areas. Their combination of technologies help transform communities in Bangladesh, so people can have access to safe drinking water and climate smart livelihoods.

With the support of LEDARS, 5,250 bio-sands-filters, 65 pond-sand-filters, 185 rainwater harvesting systems, and 69 protective ponds were installed in communities in Bangladesh, supporting cultivation of paddies and vegetables throughout the year on lands that were previously barren. LEDARS initiatives created access to safe drinking water for at least 15,881 families.



As a result of this solution, more than 12 million gallons of water have been saved.

Global High Schools

Since 2013, the Prize has awarded 46 high schools under its Global High Schools category from countries around the world. Students at these schools won for their self-led project proposals that have since been implemented by the youth.

Collectively, they have generated 7.2 million kWh of electricity, saved 5,700 tonnes of CO₂ and positively impacted 427,408 people in their communities.

The recipients of the 2023 Global High School awards are Fundacion Bios Terrae - ICAM Ubate (Colombia), representing The Americas; Romain-Rolland-Gymnasium (Germany), representing

Europe & Central Asia; Gifted Students School (Iraq), representing the Middle East & North Africa region; UWC East Africa - Arusha Campus (Tanzania), representing Sub-Saharan Africa; Dhaka Residential Model College (Bangladesh), representing South Asia, and finally, Kamil Muslim College (Fiji) from the East Asia & Pacific region.

The winners were selected from a pool of 4,538 – a record number of submissions – chosen by a panel of more than 40 experts.

The Jury members include Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, Former President of the Republic of Iceland, UAE ministers, Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group, Dr. Andreas Jacobs, Chairman of INSEAD, Jacobs Family Council, among others.

EGA Supplies 203,000 Tonnes Of Waste To Other Industries As Feedstock In 2022

Emirates Global Aluminium has announced that it supplied 203,000 tonnes of waste to other industries as feedstock in 2022. The amount was almost double the volume EGA generated during 2022, reducing stockpiles from previous years, and a 40 percent increase on 2021 as industries recovered from COVID-19.

EGA has worked with other industries in the UAE

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to find productive uses for by-products from aluminium production. Re-use diverts waste from landfill and reduces the need to exploit new natural resources, contributing to the development of a circular economy.

EGA is a global leader in the re-use of spent pot lining, the largest single by-product stream from aluminium smelting. Worldwide, the aluminium industry produces over 1 million tonnes of spent pot lining every year according to industry experts, with much kept in indefinite storage.

Use of EGA's spent pot lining as alternative raw material helps reduce greenhouse gases and nitrogen oxides from the cement sector.

Other major by-product streams for which EGA has found re-uses with other industries include carbon dust, dross, and potline process waste.

EGA is currently developing viable uses in the UAE for bauxite residue, a by-product from alumina refining. EGA began production at the UAE's first alumina refinery in 2019.

It is thought that at least 150 million tonnes of bauxite residue are produced worldwide each year and less than two percent is currently put to productive use.

Last year, EGA announced the company intends to build a pilot plant to convert bauxite residue into soil products that can be used for greening and other purposes. The pilot plant is thought to be the first of its kind in the world and follows a global R&D breakthrough after five years of research & development by EGA and The University of Queensland's School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber Appointed COP28 UAE President-Designate

Under the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court, appointed Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as President-Designate for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28).

The UAE will host the annual climate summit at



Shamma Al Mazrui appointed
COP28 UAE Youth Climate
Champion; Razan Al Mubarak is
COP28 UAE UN Climate Change
High-Level Champion

Expo City, Dubai, from 30th November - 12th December, 2023.

Shamma Al Mazrui, UAE Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Razan Al Mubarak, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), will join Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber's COP28 UAE team as the Youth Climate Champion and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, respectively.

The new Champions will mobilise action from businesses, investors, organisations, cities, regions, and all of civil society, including youth, in the run-up to and at the annual climate summit.

These appointments come at a pivotal moment, as the world faces increasing climate impact and challenges to energy, food and water security and reversing biodiversity loss.

The UAE will host the annual climate summit at Expo City, Dubai, from November 30 – December 12



Limiting global warming to 1.5C will require significant reductions in emissions, a pragmatic, practical and realistic approach to the energy transition and more help for emerging economies. The UAE is committed to multilateral cooperation and an inclusive process that brings together emerging economies with developed nations, civil society, and business to achieve the solutions and the pace of change required.

The announcement further highlights the UAE's regional leadership in climate action and its role as a global advocate for clean energy. The UAE is home to three of the largest and lowest-cost solar projects in the world and has invested more than \$50 billion in renewable energy projects across 70 countries, with plans to invest a minimum of \$50 billion over the next decade.

As the first country in the region to ratify the

Paris Agreement, the first to commit to an economy-wide reduction in emissions, and the first to announce a Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative, the UAE is committed to raising ambition in this critical decade for climate action. The UAE is honoured to have been endorsed as the host for COP28.

Its bid for this role was rooted in its commitment to global responsibility and climate action in recognition of the critical importance of COP28 as the first Global Stocktake (GST) review since the Paris Agreement. As such, the UAE has appointed a strong and diverse leadership team to support practical, inclusive, and transformational progress towards a successful COP28.

Following the official announcement of the UAE as the host of COP28, a National Higher



Committee was formed on 23rd June, 2022, to oversee preparations for the conference. The Committee is chaired by H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and includes senior officials from several authorities.

Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber is the Vice Chairman of the Committee that is responsible for supervising COP28 preparations through a comprehensive and integrated plan in line with the UAE's focus on sustainable development, collaboration, and cooperation with the international community, to ensure inclusion across all parties and to enable practical solutions that will bring long-term socioeconomic benefits to the region and the world.

Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment

(MOCCAE), will continue to lead the UAE's domestic efforts in addressing climate change, preserving the environment, food systems transformation, coordinating the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and setting the pathway for the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative.

The UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative represents a critical way forward for the UAE's future sustainable economic development, will enable the creation of new industries and skills, and is central to the UAE's contribution to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

President-Designate: Dr. Sultan Al Jaber

Dr. Al Jaber, the UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), has served as Special Envoy for Climate Change for two terms (2010-2016, 2020-present) and played a

Dr. Al Jaber served as UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change for two terms and was a key player at over 10 COPs, including the historic Paris COP21 in 2015



proactive participatory role at over 10 COPs, including the historic Paris COP21 in 2015. He brings to this task two decades of executive business and leadership experience in government, climate policy and across the renewable and conventional energy sectors.

As the founding CEO of Masdar, he has overseen its mandate to accelerate the adoption of renewables within the UAE, across the region and globally. To date, Masdar has made substantial contributions to the UAE's renewable energy targets, playing a key role in expanding the country's portfolio with clean energy investments in over 40 countries, including several developing countries in Africa and Asia and in vulnerable island states.

As CEO of ADNOC since 2016, he has played a transformative role in decarbonising and

diversifying the company's operations and investments, placed sustainability at the heart of its business and spearheaded a drive to make today's energies cleaner while investing in the clean energies of tomorrow.

Tangible actions have included sourcing 100% of ADNOC's grid power from clean nuclear and solar energy, the first company in its sector to do so, pioneering the application of carbon capture technologies with the region's first CCUS facility and diversifying into hydrogen and renewable energies.

As COP28 President-Designate, Dr. Al Jaber will play a crucial role in leading the intergovernmental process, building consensus and driving ambitious climate outcomes with a broad range of partners, including business and civil society.

UAE Takes Conservation Educational Outreach Model To Kazakhstan

The International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) has launched its first pilot creative short story competition for rural school children in Shayan, Kazakhstan, where the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Breeding Centre - Kazakhstan is located.

The announcement is based on a decision by the IFHC's Board of Directors to expand the



The competition is designed to encourage the youth to love nature and become conservationists, while boosting the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) 's relation with the local community

educational conservation programme to countries where the Fund operates its overseas centres. The competition is designed to encourage the youth to love nature and become conservationists, while boosting IFHC's relation with the local community; an effort that aligns with the Fund's objective to provide socio-economic support to the countries where it operates.

The key theme of the competition, "Challenges and Solutions in Biodiversity Conservation", was highlighted in 40 creative illustrated short stories about endangered native species from participants of the various surrounding schools. Fifteen stories were shortlisted and published in a book in Kazakh and Russian.

Organised by the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Breeding Centre in Kazakhstan (SKHBC-KZ), the

This marks the first overseas destination following the success of the Emirati edition of the competition



ceremony was attended by key Kazakh officials and from the Shayan region, with active participation from Reneco International Wildlife Consultants' employees and full support from the UAE Embassy in Astana, which provided all facilities to the work team.

Commenting on the event, Mohammed Saleh Hasan Al Baidani, Director-General of the IFHC, said, "Outreach and communication are integral to our work. Educating the youth about protecting nature and wildlife species is key to ensuring the future of our global environment. After successfully working with schools in the UAE over the past few years, we are now bringing our educational outreach program to Kazakhstan."

"The different characters featured in their stories included the red wolf, the snow leopard, the saiga antelope, the argali mountain sheep and of course

the bustard, an emblematic species in both our countries. This event was highly successful and garnered positive feedback from both teachers and students. We are encouraged to know that our future youth generation is eager to support our work, and we hope that some will become advocates for nature protection and conservation of heritage and wildlife in the future."

The IFHC delegation, led by the Director General, included Hamda Al Ameri from the Education Department; Ali Al Shamsi and Olga Tanasevych, Comms Specialist at the IFHC.

Al Baidani thanked the UAE Embassy in Kazakhstan, the school principals, teachers, participating students, Reneco International Wildlife Consultants' management, and all those who contributed to the success of the ceremony.

WiSER Annual Forum Explores Plans To Boost Women's Leadership In Climate Adaptation

Over 120 influential figures came together to explore ways to boost women's leadership in climate adaptation at an annual forum held by Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy (WiSER), a global platform run by the UAE's clean energy powerhouse Masdar.

As the world strives to adjust to a changing



The 2023 WiSER Annual Forum at ADSW focused on the theme "empowering women to lead climate adaptation"

climate, women are increasingly finding themselves at the forefront of climate adaptation efforts.

Roundtable topics discussed at the forum included equal access to climate finance, increasing food security and access to agritech, women's participation and leadership in the clean energy transition, and protecting biodiversity and eco-systems.

At the event, Khadeeja Naseem, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology for the Maldives, said: "As one of the lowest-lying countries in the world, the Maldives is incredibly vulnerable to climate change. We've been taking a holistic approach to these challenges, including building the resilience and health of our coral reefs - which are the first line of defense for our shores.

*Women and girls make up
80 percent of the people
displaced by climate change*



“To ensure maximum success for climate adaptation projects, women’s leadership is vital. Women bring unique insights and talents to this collective mission, and we must remove all barriers to their participation.”

Keynote speaker Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, said: “The transition to a cleaner, greener future must be an inclusive one. If measures are not adopted to increase women’s participation in emerging green occupations, current gender stereotypes are likely to persist, and women will only have access to a fraction of the jobs created. Ensuring women’s full and unfettered participation is a must.”

In recent months, the human cost of climate change has been in sharp focus with a ‘loss and

damage’ deal to provide funding for climate-vulnerable countries being struck at COP27 in Egypt. Globally, women and girls make up 80 percent of those displaced by climate change, according to the UN.

Dr. Lamy Fawwaz, Executive Director of Brand and Strategic Initiatives at Masdar, said, “Whether it’s improving women farmers’ access to finance or encouraging women in the renewable energy sector, empowering women to lead climate adaptation will benefit all of society.

“The WiSER Annual Forum provides a space where people from diverse backgrounds can come together and work towards much-needed solutions. This is of upmost importance to the UAE, especially as we look forward to hosting COP28 and putting inclusive action at its heart.”

UAE Plans First Food-Grade Plastic Recycling Plant

The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) oversaw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 19 at the 2023 edition of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), which will lay the groundwork for new plastic recycling facility in the UAE.

Under the plans, a 12,000 tonnes per annum



The 12,000 tonnes per annum polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling plant is in line with the UAE's efforts to reduce plastic pollution and boost trade through the export of recycled materials

polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling plant has been earmarked for Abu Dhabi. In line with the UAE's efforts to reduce plastic pollution and boost trade through the export of recycled materials, the plant will recycle PET, a plastic material that is used in food packaging, such as plastic water bottles.

The 40,000 square meter facility in Abu Dhabi could create 100 jobs and avoid the emission of 18,000 metric tonnes of CO₂ annually at full operating capacity.

The MoU to study the feasibility of the project, which involves Repeat, BEEAH Group, and Agthia, was signed in the presence of Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Executive Director of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA), Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and

The upcoming plant will recycle PET, a plastic material that is used in food packaging, such as plastic water bottles



Advanced Technology, and Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment.

Omar Al Suwaidi, Under-Secretary of MoIAT, said, "Collaboration is the key driver behind the shift towards a more sustainable industrial sector and a greener economy.

"Accordingly, the ministry focuses on facilitating partnerships between stakeholders, including financial institutions, national industrial companies, and global corporations, with the aim of supporting GDP growth as well as the UAE's net zero strategic initiative."

"As we approach COP28, the ministry will continue to amplify the important initiatives that fall under the national industrial strategy. For instance, we will utilize 'Make it in the Emirates' to attract international investors and companies to engage

with the UAE's industrial sector to help us unlock the opportunities associated with industrial transformation, and circular economy.

"These opportunities will ultimately help to build a more sustainable, efficient and competitive industrial sector, supporting not only the national economy, but also the global climate agenda," Al Suwaidi added.

The MoU was signed between Veolia Middle East subsidiary Repeat, UAE-based sustainability pioneer BEEAH Group, and F&B conglomerate Agthia. In the frame of the project under study, Repeat would operate the recycling plant, while BEEAH Group would supply a seven-year feedstock of plastics.

Meanwhile, Agthia would provide a seven-year offtake for products. The feedstock will be post-consumed PET bottle bales while the offtakes



will be food grade recycled PET resin.

Following the signing, Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of BEEAH Group, said, "Aligning closely with the national vision and contributing to the UAE's sustainability targets have been the driving force for our organisation as we develop and implement circular economy solutions through our waste management business. Through this agreement, we can now further support the UAE's sustainability agenda and accelerate the circular economy."

This partnership comes in line with MolAT's recent ministerial decree regulating the trade of recycled plastic water bottles. The move aims to facilitate the manufacturing of water bottles using recycled plastic in line with top public health and food safety standards. With time, more local water bottling companies are expected to

embrace this circular economy journey and introduce more and more recycled plastic to produce their packaging. This is projected to reduce avoid 50,000 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions, to enhance the national in-country value by AED150 million annually, and to create more than 1000 jobs.

MolAT works closely with industrial stakeholders, including financial institutions, to leverage incentives and enablers that lead to a business-friendly environment that is attractive to investors.

As part of the UAE's national industrial strategy, the ministry has introduced various programmes and initiatives that support the sustainable development of priority sectors, contributing to the nation's economic diversification.

BEEAH Group Launches Education Vertical To Drive Sustainable Action

BEAAH Group, the region's leading sustainability pioneer, officially launched BEEAH Education to consolidate its several programmes driven to raise awareness and engage people and institutions in shaping a sustainable future.

Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of BEEAH Group, and Hind Al Huwaidi, Managing Director of

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BEEAH Education, joined partners and colleagues to commemorate the occasion at BEEAH Group's stand for Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023.

As a new business vertical, BEEAH Education will lead several environmental awareness, education and awarding programmes for the group. Its rebranded and enhanced programmes include the Academy of Sustainability, formerly the Bee'ah School of Environment and the Future Pioneers Awards by BEEAH.

BEEAH Education will also lead the Institute of Environmental Management and Sustainability (IEMS) Academy, a training and certification institution for professional and vocational courses that prepare individuals for careers in sustainability. Through these programmes, BEEAH Education aims to further empower individuals, organisations and students at schools

and universities to make a sustainable impact now and in the future.

At the grassroots level, BEEAH Education's Academy of Sustainability engages more than 700 schools, hundreds of teachers and thousands of students every year to incorporate environmental education into school curricula and hold competitions to drive sustainable action among the youth and their communities.

The Future Pioneers Awards by BEEAH has awarded several schools, students, and teachers and is now expanding its scope to include professionals and companies.

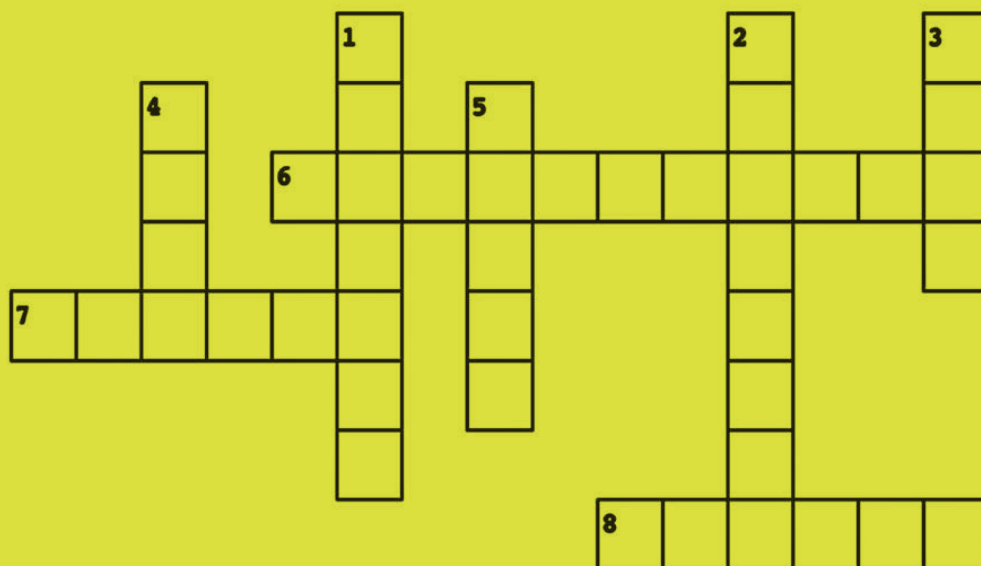
BEEAH Education is the latest business to be launched under the diversified holding structure BEEAH Group adopted in January last year.

MAOUSINNT ROWDL **STINSAU**
GEEENRYR
EAYTHHL CNOESA
DACPNELSA FELWDLII

Answers: 1) GREENERY, 2) LANDSCAPE, 3) MOUNTAINS, 4)
OCEANS, 5) WILDLIFE, 6) SUSTAIN, 7) HEALTHY, 8) WORLD

A	W	N	J	Z	X	L	A	G	A	Q	Z	A	P	U	GOVERNMENT
F	A	U	N	A	A	T	P	A	D	A	E	Z	I	J	SUSTAIN
B	L	H	J	S	C	E	C	U	D	J	V	I	G	L	FAU NA
Y	B	Q	T	G	C	J	N	C	O	R	A	Z	F	I	REUSE
A	Z	I	Q	Q	R	X	M	K	F	D	U	L	X	V	POLICIES
B	C	P	P	T	K	Z	A	R	Z	G	O	F	K	E	GREEN
S	Y	B	W	N	C	P	O	L	I	C	I	E	S	L	ADAPT
S	M	D	V	U	L	V	M	D	Y	D	G	J	D	I	LIVELIHOODS
M	V	E	I	L	L	Q	V	P	F	U	R	W	K	H	RECYCLE
T	T	N	E	M	N	R	E	V	O	G	F	T	D	O	PLASTICS
G	P	Y	J	F	U	X	R	E	U	S	E	A	C	O	
P	T	W	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	V	Z	E	O	D	
F	O	Q	E	M	X	X	Z	U	G	H	V	P	P	S	

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 6. Make impure
- 7. Make smaller in size or number
- 8. Study of plants

Down

- 1. Keep from danger
- 2. Natural luminance
- 3. Energy source
- 4. Daily intake
- 5. Wild weather condition

Answers: 1) Protect, 2) Sunlight, 3) Fuel, 4) Food, 5) Storm, 6) Contaminate, 7) Reduce, 8) Botany

WORD OF THE DAY:

BOTANY

Botany is the scientific study of plant life. As a branch of biology, it is also sometimes referred to as plant science(s) or plant biology. Botany covers a wide range of scientific disciplines that study the growth, reproduction, metabolism, development, diseases, and evolution of plants.

Historically, botanists studied all organisms that were not generally regarded as animal. Some of these "plant-like" organisms include: fungi (studied in mycology); bacteria and viruses (studied in microbiology); and algae (studied in phycology). Most algae, fungi, and microbes are no longer considered to be in the plant kingdom. However, attention is still given to them by botanists; and bacteria, fungi, and algae are usually covered, somewhat superficially, in introductory botany courses.

So why study plants? Plants are an utterly fundamental part of life on earth. They generate the oxygen, food, fibres, fuel and medicine that allow higher life forms to exist. While doing all this, plants also absorb carbon dioxide, an important greenhouse gas, through photosynthesis. A good understanding of plants is crucial to the future of human societies as it allows us to:

- Feed the world
- Understand fundamental life processes
- Utilise medicine and materials
- Understand environmental changes

Botany helps us understand environmental changes by:

- Understanding the habitat destruction and species extinction is dependent on an accurate and complete catalogue of plants
- Plant responses to ultraviolet radiation can help us monitor problems like the holes in the ozone layer
- Analysing pollen deposited by plants thousands or millions of years ago can help



scientists to reconstruct past climates and predict future ones, an essential part of climate change research

- Recording and analysing the timing of plant life cycles is an important part of phenology used in climate change research
- Lichens, which are sensitive to atmospheric conditions, have been extensively used as pollution indicators

WORLD WETLANDS DAY – FEBRUARY 2

World Wetlands Day, celebrated annually on 2 February, aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

Nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests. Yet, wetlands are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability, world economies, and more.

It is urgent that we raise national and global awareness about wetlands in order to reverse their rapid loss and encourage actions to conserve and restore them.

World Wetlands Day is the ideal time to increase people's understanding of these critically important ecosystems.

Wetlands ecological services contribute USD 47.4 trillion annually to human health, happiness, and security. The international



community celebrates World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2023 to raise awareness about wetlands to reverse their rapid loss and encourage actions to conserve and restore them.

This year's theme is "It's Time for Wetlands Restoration," which highlights the urgent need to prioritize wetland restoration.

and both the public and private sector.

Each year on February 27th, a diverse array of supporters worldwide, from over six continents and more than 89 countries, come together to celebrate World NGO day and recognize the missions and contributions of such organizations.



WORLD NGO DAY – FEBRUARY 27

Back in 2014, the 27th of February became a historic day for the NGO community worldwide. This international calendar day, now known as "World NGO day," was inaugurated for the first time internationally.

The first global inaugural event of World NGO day was hosted by the Ministry for Foreign affairs of Finland on 27 February 2014 in Helsinki, Finland. The international guests were leaders from UNOPS, UNESCO, UNDP, European Union, Nordic Council and international organizations.

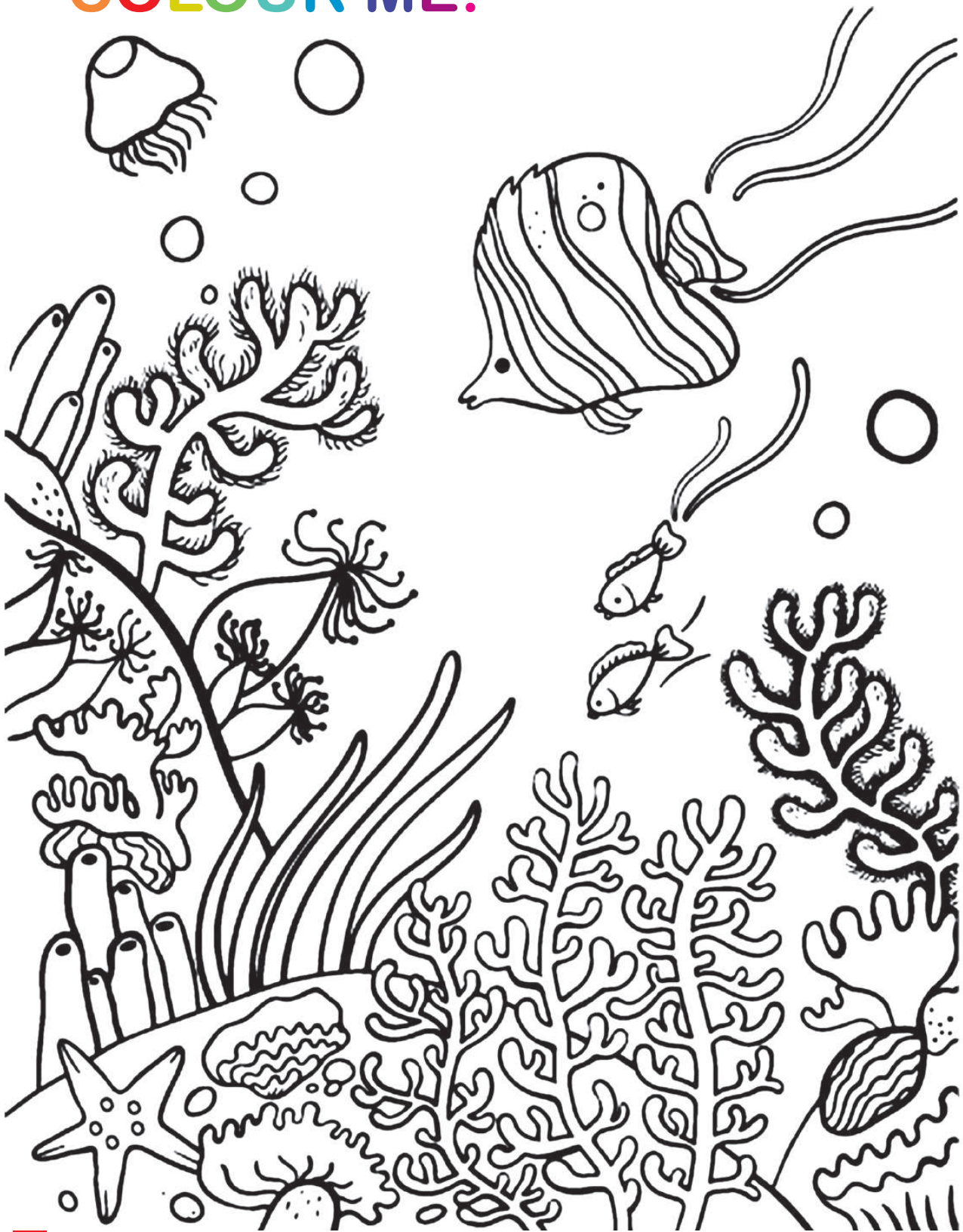
World NGO Day is an international day dedicated to recognize, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and nonprofit organizations, and the people behind them that contribute to the society all year around. World NGO Day is to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGO sector and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs

What can you do to help?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Use public transport! _____
- ☒ Carry a water bottle! _____
- ☒ Switch off all lights when not in use _____
- ☒ Do not waste food _____
- ☒ Don't waste paper _____

COLOUR ME!



New Book Documents Environmental Heritage Of Al Marmoom

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority, in collaboration with Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture), has launched a new book documenting Emirati heritage and life in Dubai's Al Marmoom area, the largest unfenced nature reserve in the UAE.

Written by Emirati writer and researcher Juma Khalifa bin Thalith, 'Al Marmoom' is the first

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heritage book developed by KHDA in partnership with Dubai Culture and was launched at Al Safa Art and Design Library.

The launch was held during a discussion session hosted by the library in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Al Karam, Director General of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority, and Her Excellency Hala Badri, Director General of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority.

Dr. Abdulla Al Karam said: "Al Marmoom has become a destination for those who want to experience the beauty of the desert and the hallmarks of Emirati heritage. The book tells the story of Al Marmoom's environmental richness and its social heritage and offers cultural and educational content that will serve as inspiration for future generations."

Her Excellency Hala Badri stated: "The desert has always been a symbol of inspiration in Emirati culture and society. Our wise leadership seeks to preserve the environment and its wealth by launching Al Marmoom Reserve to be the largest environmental tourism destination, a sign of the unique vision and exceptional thinking that we are familiar with."

She added, "This book captures the story of a place where the past, present and future are brought together. It highlights the concept of sustainability rooted in the values of Emirati society. The book documents the history and civilisation of a country and highlights the determination that makes wishes and miracles come true. It enhances the position of our country as a meeting place for culture, entertainment, sports, tourism, and environmental awareness."

Cement Factories In Sharjah Honoured For Lowering Emissions

BEAAH Recycling, the waste processing and material recovery business of BEEAH Group, has awarded the title of “Green Partner” to Sharjah Cement Factory and Lafarge Emirates Cement/Geocycle for being among the UAE’s first cement production facilities to utilise lower emission fuels, contribute to net-zero emissions targets and support the circular economy.



BEEAH Recycling supplies both Sharjah Cement Factory and Lafarge Emirates Cement/Geocycle with high-quality, low-cost alternative fuels that meet production needs while producing lower emissions

The awarding ceremony was held at the BEEAH Group stand at the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) in the presence of Issa Al Hashemi, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Sustainable Communities Sector and Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for the Green Development and Climate Change Sector, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Khaled Al Huraimel, the Group CEO of BEEAH Group.

Daker El-Rabaya, CEO of BEEAH Recycling, presented the awards to Pravinchandra Batavia, CEO of Sharjah Cement Factory, and Olivier Milhaud, General Manager of Lafarge Emirates Cement/Geocycle, member of the Holcim Group. BEEAH Recycling supplies both Sharjah Cement Factory and Lafarge Emirates Cement/Geocycle with high-quality, low-cost alternative fuels that meet production needs while producing lower emissions.

Use of high-efficiency green alternative to coal enables factories to meet production targets effectively and support a circular economy



As the largest producer of alternative fuels in the region, BEEAH Recycling produced 150,000 tonnes of alternative fuels in 2022 alone. Out of the 150,00 tonnes, a large amount constitutes Refuse Derived Fuels (RDF), which is produced at BEEAH Recycling's Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) facility.

A first of its kind facility in the region, the Solid Recovered Fuel facility transforms Municipal Solid Waste into high-quality RDF, which has lower moisture and chlorine content than traditional carbon fuels. The RDF can then be injected into kilns for cement production. In 2022, BEEAH Recycling supplied Sharjah Cement Factory with 50,000 tonnes of RDF for their cement production operations.

The SRF facility is located within BEEAH Recycling's integrated waste management

complex. The complex has 10 different facilities that process and recover material from municipal waste and industrial waste and has helped Sharjah achieve a landfill waste diversion rate of 76 percent - the highest in the Middle East.

Daker El-Rabaya, CEO of BEEAH Recycling, said, "At BEEAH Recycling, we process waste, recover materials, as well as produce products and fuels that can benefit industries. However, achieving these circular economy solutions is only one part of the climate action equation. On the other side are our valued clients and partners who implement the right solutions and reduce their impact on the environment and ultimately contribute to wider sustainability targets. Adoption of our solutions drives us to continue producing high-quality alternative fuels and innovating for a zero-waste, net-zero emissions future."

6th International Rain Enhancement Forum Concludes In Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi hosted the sixth edition of the International Rain Enhancement Forum (IREF) at Conrad Abu Dhabi at Etihad Towers, which is the first-of-its-kind event to tackle pressing water and sustainability issues worldwide.

Organised by the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) through the UAE Research Programme



The forum gathered leading global and national experts, researchers, and scientists to discuss scientific and technological advances in rain enhancement research and ways to step up scientific efforts to tackle global water stress

for Rain Enhancement Science (UAERP) and held from 24th to 26th January, 2023, the forum was structured around five strategic pillars: Collaborations, Innovation, Capacity Building, Artificial Intelligence, and Applied Research.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed - in a speech delivered on his behalf by Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous, Director-General of NCM - said, "The relentless efforts of the scientific community to bolster water security and enhance the sustainability of water resources worldwide deserve everyone's appreciation and recognition, given the growing challenges facing our environment, climate and scarce water resources, which top the priorities of global, regional and local agendas.

"We reiterate our full support to the scientific community to advance this promising field and provide a sustainable alternative to replenish

Key topics discussed included global water security challenges; advanced developments in rainfall enhancement; and capacity building in the UAE for rain enhancement science



the groundwater reserves in arid and semi-arid regions worldwide.

"The UAEREP is a noteworthy example of the UAE's aspirations to become a global hub for advancing the global water security agenda. As we embark on a new phase of the programme's journey, the advancement of science, technology, and operational aspects of rain enhancement research has become our collective responsibility. To achieve this goal, we are determined to work closely with top scientific institutions and renowned researchers and enable them to find innovative solutions that sustainably enhance our water resources at a time of massive urbanisation that poses various challenges and places increasing pressure on our limited resources," Sheikh Mansour added.

In its latest edition, the event drew the

participation of 46 speakers and panellists from 18 countries worldwide, including Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) who delivered the opening speech and Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, who addressed the event through her video-recorded remarks.

Alya Al Mazroui, Director of the UAEREP, announced the call for submissions for the programme's 5th Cycle, which offers a grant of up to USD 1.5 million, distributed over three years, for each winning research proposal.

In its 5th Cycle, the programme welcomes innovative research proposals focusing on two high-priority areas: enhancing cloud formation and rain enhancement.

Personal Responsibility Towards Mother Earth - 2

Last month we asserted that the efforts of the UN and Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to curb global warming have not achieved substantial progress even after 27 COP meetings. This is mainly due to the fixed mindset focusing on hardware and software, disregarding the humanware. In fact, public awareness is much more effective than any technology in reducing our footprint.

How can individuals and community make real progress? Last month, we discussed water conservation strategies, and our next priority is energy conservation as we explore how to become 'Energy Wise'. Energy consumption can be optimized in many ways. Walking,



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

biking, and taking public transport or carpooling greatly reduce the energy demand while also bringing significant health benefits. Use your well-maintained car only when needed.

Switch to energy saving appliances and lights at home. LED bulbs, for instance, save energy and last much longer compensating for any initial price difference. Use a renewable source of energy if it is within reach. Solar energy system is now much cheaper and easy to operate.

Thirdly, do what you can to fulfil the 4 R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. While the last three are well known sustainability principles, the term 'Refuse' stands for refusing single use plastics to eat or drink; refusing to fill your plate with more food than necessary; refusing to buy or ride an energy inefficient vehicle; refusing to use plastic bags or wasteful water systems, etc. For example, using paper on both sides and recycling them can save millions of trees worldwide. In the UAE, we have several composting & recycling enterprises that have helped reduce the dumped waste by around 80 per cent.

Our eating habits can also make a big difference. Buy organic food from the local farmer to reduce pollution from both chemical treatments and transport. Alternatively, grow your own vegetables and fruits and reduce your footprint.

Plant trees and spread greenery as much as you can. A young tree can absorb 5 kilograms of CO₂ every year. This rises to 21kg annually when the tree is 10 years old. Trees also absorb air pollutants of all kinds. A shelter belt of trees around every village/city and every industrial area would be ideal.

Let us all spread the message.



Congratulations to

His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

President of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness

SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates

and Ruler of Dubai

AND THEIR HIGHNESS MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, RULERS OF THE EMIRATES

AND THE PEOPLE OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On the occasion of declaring year 2023

"The Year Of Sustainability"

**Afridi
&Angell**

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UAE



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