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8th WGES 2022 Encourages Investment Partnerships In Green Projects



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Its First-Ever Battery EV



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Chairman's Message

In 2021, Dubai was ranked first globally for its resilience and recognised as a role model for sustainability by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The upcoming World Green Economy Summit (WGES), held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, is a perfect platform to discuss green urbanism and the importance of designing cities to be smarter and more sustainable in dealing with climate change.

Today, 55 percent of the global population live in cities and this number is expected to reach 70 percent in 2050. We will have 2.5 billion more individuals living in urban areas in the future.

The convening of the WGES in Dubai is therefore an opportunity to take a closer look at the inspiring model established by the emirate in adapting to climate change. It will also address the importance of promoting the resilience and



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

competitiveness of cities to enhance their capacity to deal with climate risks and advance the quality, welfare, and happiness of individuals.

Sound planning based on meticulous data analysis and full resilience in keeping pace with changes has helped the UAE become a global leader in several areas. The people-centric plan of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan outlines an integrated future map for sustainable urban development. The focus is on human beings, improving the quality of life in Dubai, and enhancing the global competitiveness of the emirate to become the best city to live in the world.

The choice of green urbanism as a key discussion topic in the 8th edition of WGES further underscores the future-centred approach of the UAE that has strengthened its global position as one of the leaders in supporting a green economy.

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GREEN CITY

Kuala Lumpur, capital city of Malaysia re-envisioning itself as a sustainable, green, flourishing city



REPORT: Giraffes and parrots among one million species facing extinction, warns UN



Upcoming events

IETC@30 Webinar on Gender and Waste

Date: September 7

Webinar

Led by the International Environmental Technology Centre, the webinar aims to draw attention to the nexus between waste management and gender.

Gender inequalities and gender roles are deeply embedded in many aspects of waste management. Yet, existing waste management policies and practices are often gender blind, failing to address specific needs and issues related to gender dynamics.

Global panelists will share experiences and lessons learned on how to mainstream gender in waste management and how to empower women as agents of change.

#WorldCleanAirDay: Youth-led Action to Fight Air Pollution

Date: September 8

Webinar

In light of the International Day for Clean Air, young leaders, clean air advocates, and civil society will gather to discuss the importance of air quality and its relationship with health and well-being, environment, and climate. The conversation will serve to raise awareness amongst youth networks and foster collaboration to advance comprehensive and intersectional solutions, required for effective public policies.

Global Methane, Climate and Clean Air Forum 2022

Date: September 26-29

Location: Washington, USA

The Forum is a premier global event that brings together policymakers, industry leaders, technical experts, and researchers from around the world to discuss opportunities to protect the climate and improve air quality with a special focus on methane.

The 2022 Forum provides a unique opportunity for participants to access high-level plenary sessions on global efforts to reduce methane and other short-lived climate pollutants, including the benefits of fast action, national policy and planning, and financing for implementation.

8th WGES 2022 Encourages Investment Partnerships In Green Projects

The 8th World Green Economy Summit (WGES), to be held in Dubai on 28th and 29th September 2022, will focus on developing investment partnerships in green projects and financing. It will promote investment and employment opportunities provided by the green economy and discuss several topics such as energy, finance, food security, and youth, among others, to accelerate the transition



The 8th WGES brings together several leaders, experts and specialists in various areas related to the green economy and sustainable development

towards a green economy and drive sustainable development.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) are organising the summit under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

During the Summit, several local and global high-profile participants, including heads of states and governments, as well as prominent global speakers, official dignitaries from government organisations, academia, experts and the media, will discuss promising opportunities and investments for the public and private sectors.

These opportunities would enable them to find

The UAE has committed US\$400 million to enable the transition to clean energy for developing nations



innovative solutions and financial tools that promote clean and renewable energy projects, sustain growth and drive the global economy towards greater prosperity.

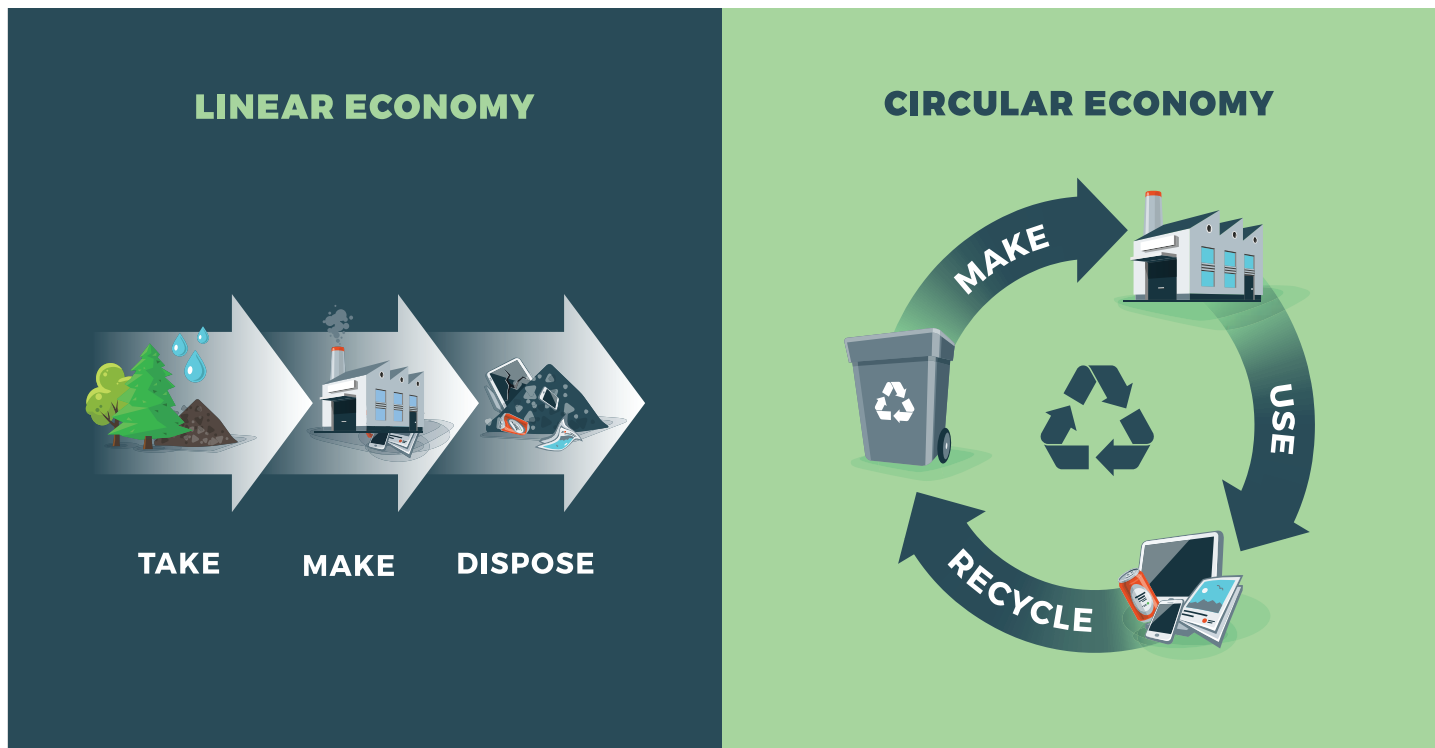
WGES 2022 supports the UAE's efforts to increase green investment. This is through gathering decision-makers and investors in one place on the land of the UAE. This supports the UAE's endeavour in enhancing green funding.

The UAE is the first country to develop the Green Key Performance Indicators. It focuses on three dimensions (environmental, economic and social) of sustainable development. The KPIs include green jobs, Emiratisation, innovation, human development, ecological footprint, and green vehicles.

The UAE committed USD400 million to enable

the transition to clean energy for developing nations, that will positively impact 100 million African citizens by 2035. It has promised to raise USD4 billion to invest in technologies that will transform agriculture and food production to limit climate change.

WGES highlights the importance of making global changes in consumption, production and investment patterns, to achieve the Paris Agreement for climate change. It also paves the way for the Conference of the Parties organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which will be hosted by Expo City Dubai next year. COP28 is an important event to outline the features of global sustainability and a green future as well as strengthen the Middle East's position as a key driver of a green economy and green infrastructure.



"The UAE has adopted an ambitious vision to promote economic diversification and the growth of new economic sectors in fields that best serve our sustainable development path. The green economy is central to our agenda, with the country taking major steps towards building capacity in this area," said Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy.

"The circular economy represents a key economic driver and is supported by the newly established UAE Circular Economy Council and its policy committee which has developed a roadmap comprising 22 new solutions and initiatives.

"The policies will contribute to addressing the several challenges in four key sectors namely: green infrastructure, manufacturing, transportation, and food production and consumption whilst also driving the overall green

transition," he added, and highlighted that the transition to a sustainable and green development model is a global trend that will shape the economy of the future.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, MD and CEO of DEWA and WGES Chairman, noted that the nation's adoption of the green economy since 2012, through the 'UAE Green Growth Strategy' initiative was created with the ambition to transform the nation into a global leader and a successful model of sustainability, while supporting long-term economic growth.

"The UAE has worked to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 into its vision for the future and to achieve its ambitions for the next 50 years. Pioneering transformational projects such as building solar

WGES provides a unique platform for exchanging experiences and aligning efforts that support the regional and global agenda for sustainable development



power plants, using eco-friendly EV cars, as well as building sustainable, low-carbon urban communities support the wise leadership strategy to achieve a sustainable future for vital sectors in the UAE," he added.

WGES 2022 will highlight the increasing interest of global investors in the renewable energy sector, and ways to benefit from the boom in financing the environment, society and governance.

Focus on sustainability, funding, food security and youth

During the two-day 8th WGES, discussions will focus on decarbonising energy systems; the environmental, social, and corporate governance strategy; mobilising investment for green growth; promoting sustainable transport and mobility networks; future-proofing the built environment;

developing innovative technologies to support low-carbon transition; robust and resilient value chains; and engaging the next generation in making net zero a reality.

"The objectives of WGES align with the UAE leadership's directives on the need to balance economic growth and the sustainability of natural and environmental resources. It also supports the UAE's efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of Dubai's total power capacity from clean energy sources by 2050," said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, MD & CEO of DEWA and Chairman of the WGES.

Since its launch in 2014, WGES has made



significant development and achievements by adopting policies, plans and initiatives to enhance international cooperation between participants from business leaders and global experts from the public and private sectors, he added.

"WGES is a strategic platform for supporting international collaboration in fighting global challenges and promoting sustainable development as well as investments in the green economy and adopting effective policies, plans, and initiatives in this regard," Al Tayer noted.

Supporting UAE's preparations for hosting COP28

Besides its leading role in promoting a green economy, WGES plays a key role in supporting the UAE's outstanding climate action efforts and its commitment to sustainability. It also reflects the UAE's unlimited support for energy and

climate change issues and developing sustainable solutions to environmental challenges.

This supports the UAE's preparations to host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) at Expo City Dubai in 2023. This is the most important international conference on climate action that brings together world leaders, underlining the UAE's leadership and its widely recognised efforts in climate action.

"The UAE plays a leading role in supporting global efforts in clean and renewable energy through its strategies and investments in this area. The 8th WGES is especially important as the UAE is preparing to host COP28 next year at Expo City Dubai. WGES supports the efforts of the UAE and global efforts to promote innovation for sustainable development, and achieve a balance

Since its launch in 2014, WGES has succeeded in galvanising global efforts to promote the shift towards a green economy



between economic growth and sustainability of natural and environmental resources," said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer.

"The UAE is one of the leading countries in the world supporting the green economy and international efforts in clean energy. It has set its long-term goals in the energy field and has launched the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative, a national drive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050," said Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

"In line with the wise leadership's vision to adopt a comprehensive and balanced approach to climate action through a well-thought-out transformation in the energy sector WGES supports the national efforts to achieve the UN SDGs. WGES further supports efforts in adopting innovative green solutions to achieve balanced

socio-economic growth as well as focus on renewable and clean energy solutions," said Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Climate Change Special Envoy.

"For three decades, the UAE has presented a pioneering model of climate and environmental action to the world.

"As we gear up to host COP28 in 2023, we are keen to take meaningful steps in our climate action - most importantly, advancing the shift to a green economy and WGES is an ideal platform to assess the progress made thus far in the transition to a green economy, explore the next steps, and expedite collective endeavours," said Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

Expo City Dubai To Usher In New Era With October 1 Opening

Expo City Dubai is gearing up to open on 1st October, building on Expo 2020 Dubai's pledge to inspire future generations.

Ahead of the official opening of the Expo City Dubai site in October, visitors are invited to experience two of its most popular pavilions from September 1, with the re-opening of Alif – The Mobility Pavilion and Terra – The



Sustainability Pavilion marking the first chapter of Expo City Dubai's journey.

Tickets, which cost AED50 per person per pavilion, are available at the Expo website and can be purchased at four box offices at Expo City Dubai from September 1.

Garden in the Sky, with its breathtaking 360-degree views, will also open on September 1, with tickets priced at AED30 each. Attractions are free for children aged 12 and under and People of Determination.

Terra – a world-class example of sustainable best practice in architecture and design – will encourage visitors to re-evaluate their relationship with the environment through an immersive journey through ocean and forest, while Alif will transport explorers through time

and across new horizons to discover how mobility has driven human progress throughout history.

Alif and Terra will be open daily from 10:00-18:00, while Garden in the Sky will open from 15:00-18:00, extending to 10:00-18:00 from September 16 onwards.

Other Expo 2020 Dubai favourites – including Al Wasl Plaza, the Surreal water feature, the Women's Pavilion and the Vision Pavilion, as well as children's playgrounds and the carousel – will open in October.

Later this year, the Opportunity Pavilion will become the Expo 2020 Dubai Museum – a new addition highlighting the history and impact of World Expos and celebrating the success of Expo 2020 Dubai.

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Sheikh Hamdan Tours World's Largest Vertical Farm In Dubai

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, said Dubai remains committed to maintaining the highest levels of food security with one of the world's most comprehensive plans to address this vital issue.

"Under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh



The three-hectare farm, operated by Emirates Flight Catering, highlights the emirate's vision to harness smart technology to bolster food security

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, we will continue launching new initiatives that apply modern farming techniques to accelerate self-sufficiency in fresh food produce and support sustainability, which is a top priority for us," said Sheikh Hamdan.

"The Dubai Food Security Committee constantly reviews current opportunities and challenges within the national food security strategy framework. Our plans for enhancing self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector by supporting the use of technologies and applied research in food processing and agriculture are focused on meeting the current and future needs of Dubai's citizens and residents," he added.

He made the comments during a tour of Bustanica, the world's largest vertical farm that

Plants are grown using hydroponic methods, which do not use soil and require 70 to 90 per cent less water than conventional farming



recently opened in Dubai. Accompanying him were Adel Ahmad Al Redha, COO, Emirates Airline; Mansoor Falaknaz, Member of the Board of Directors, Bustanica; and Robert Fellows, Production Director, Bustanica.

"The opening of the world's largest vertical farm in Dubai reflects the high priority placed on long-term food security and the government's commitment to making continuous investments to ensure sustainable growth," he said.

"We are fully confident in the ability of our youth and institutions to continue delivering innovative projects that accelerate the pace of development and achieve optimum results in strategic sectors," he added.

During the tour, Sheikh Hamdan was briefed on the innovative technologies used in the state-of-the-art hydroponic farm. The Bustanica facility

has been developed by Emirates Crop One, a joint venture between Emirates Flight Catering, one of the world's largest catering operations serving more than 100 airlines, and Crop One, an industry leader in technology-driven indoor vertical farming.

Backed by an investment of USD40 million, the world's largest hydroponic farm is spread over 330,000 square feet.

Located near Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, the newly opened vertical hydroponic farm in Dubai is geared to produce more than 1,000,000 kilogrammes of high-quality leafy greens annually while requiring 95 percent less water than conventional agriculture. At any point in time, the facility grows more than one million plants that provide an output of 3,000 kg per day.

Register Now To Book A Field Visit To Key Dubai-Based Sustainability Projects

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is organising several field visits as part of the Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and Dubai Solar Show (DSS) 2022 which will be held from September 27 - 29.

DEWA's key projects and its pioneering achievements and the latest innovations in



sustainability, clean and renewable energy will be introduced to the delegations, visitors and exhibitors.

The schedule for field visits includes smart autonomous buses to tour the Innovation Track at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world using the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, with a production capacity of 5,000 megawatts by 2030. The visits include a tour of DEWA's Innovation Centre, which hosts a museum and exhibition of solar power and renewable energy, and a conference centre.

The Innovation Centre highlights the progress of DEWA, prominent historical inventions in electricity and the latest developments in renewable and sustainable energy. Other sections of the exhibition include more than 30 interactive

displays, DEWA's Museum, desalination plants, and a presentation on solar energy technologies.

To book a field visit, log on to:
<https://www.wetex.ae/sitevisitregistration>.

UAE-Germany exchange expertise

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment received a delegation from the German Development Cooperation Agency and German conservation NGO, Succow Foundation, for discussions to enhance bilateral cooperation and share experiences on biosphere reserves, ecotourism, and environmental conservation.

The visit featured a tour of Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve, the region's first and largest UNESCO-designated marine reserve with abundant wildlife.

7th Liwa Ajman Dates And Honey Festival Activities Conclude

The 7th Liwa Ajman Dates and Honey Festival, organised by the Ajman Department of Tourism Development, concluded recently at the Emirates Hospitality Centre in Ajman having attracted a large number of visitors who enjoyed the festival's distinguished activities and various competitions that allowed them to experience the finest dates and honey products of 2022.

UAE NEWS



The event has established itself as a pioneering platform to promote and develop the palm plantation sector and the production of dates, honey, and fruits, in addition to reviving the UAE's cultural heritage and rich traditions.

The festival also witnessed the distribution of various prizes valued at AED500,000 among the participants in competitions that included dates decoration, honey, citrus fruits, lemon, mango, and almonds competition, and traditional food and photography competitions,

The three-day festival also included a display of the finest palm trees produced in the country, where several farmers exhibited their best dates, citruses, fruits, and best local honey.

Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Ajman Department of Tourism Development, reiterated the entity's commitment

to further develop the Liwa Ajman Dates and Honey Festival throughout the upcoming years and support farm owners in developing the sector.

Khadija Turki, Acting Director-General of the Ajman Department of Tourism Development, stressed that this year's edition of the festival offered scientific guidance to farmers on modern farming methods, innovative irrigation models, and unveiled best practices in enhancing the quality of date production.

The Municipal Council of Khor Fakkan City showcased the city's best produce of mango, figs, and lemon. Dubai Municipality offered a laboratory for testing honey and determining its quality. Al Ain City Municipality shared furniture, and other products made from palm wickers, and the Sharjah Institute for Heritage offered lectures and educational workshops.

Dubai RTA Cuts Energy Use By Nearly A Fifth

Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has announced that RTA had achieved the targeted energy efficiency performance indicators for 2021 and reduced total energy consumption in all operations and projects by 18 percent, when compared with the average consumption from 2016 to 2019.



Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recorded an 18 per cent reduction in the total energy consumption of its operations and projects in 2021

It also managed to reduce the total emissions by 13 percent and energy costs by 10 percent during the same period.

"Sustainability is a key pillar of RTA's strategic goals and objectives, and the concept of sustainability has become deeply rooted in RTA's corporate performance. Protecting the environment, optimising the use of energy, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring assets sustainability have become priorities," he said.

"As compared to the average in the years from 2016 to 2019, RTA Energy Analysis Report 2021 showed a decrease in the total energy consumption by 18 percent, and gasoline consumption by 36 percent. This drop is attributed to the increased use of hybrid and electric taxis by Dubai Taxi Corporation, along with a 15 percent decrease in diesel consumption,

RTA implemented 36 energy and green economy initiatives that contributed to achieving record savings and reducing energy consumption



despite an increase in the public bus fleet.

"RTA has carried out a process to upgrade its old fleet of buses to replace them with modern buses equipped with eco-friendly Euro 6 engines compatible with the European specifications for carbon emissions. The report also indicated an increase in electricity consumption by 11 percent, as a result of the operation of the 15-kilometre Dubai Metro Route 2020, which includes seven stations," explained Al Tayer.

"RTA has implemented 36 energy and green economy initiatives in 2021, resulting in record savings of AED 85 million, 68 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, 55 million gallons of water, 21 million litres of gasoline, 1.8 million litres of diesel, and a reduction of approximately 86 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. It also diverted about 450,000 tons of waste from landfill

through effective waste management practices," explained Al Tayer.

"RTA has accomplished over 95 percent of green economy initiatives and projects, and future directions are guided by a range of factors, including soft and shared mobility, sustainable transport, circular economy, self-driving vehicles for passengers and goods, and developing services based on customer needs and future skills," concluded Al Tayer.

The year 2021 saw the official operation of the Dubai Metro Route 2020 Project, which serves densely populated districts inhabited by 270,000 inhabitants. The year also saw the completion of numerous road and bridge projects and the opening of model public bus stations, pedestrian bridges, and cycling tracks.

A Mangrove Tree For Every Economy Seat On Etihad Airways

Etihad Airways has committed to adopting a mangrove tree on behalf of every guest who books an Economy Space seat, ensuring every "space" seat sold is eventually carbon neutral.

The announcement follows the launch of the Etihad Mangrove Forest, Etihad's initiative for biodiversity, wildlife and environmental

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INITIATIVE



New incentive announced as part of UAE airline's Etihad Mangrove Forest initiative

protection through a network of mangrove and other forests being established in Abu Dhabi and worldwide.

Launched in February 2022, the Etihad Mangrove Forest aims to plant 182,000 mangroves by the first quarter of 2023 in Abu Dhabi, before the next phase to plant new forests in international destinations. Mangroves remove up to four times more carbon dioxide from the air than other tropical forests, helping to fight the effects of climate change such as coral bleaching and coastline degradation, and supporting biodiversity and wildlife as an essential habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.

Through the initiative, Etihad will plant one mangrove tree in locations in Abu Dhabi for each economy space seat purchased on any Etihad Airways flight. Each mangrove planted alone will absorb up to 250kg of CO₂ in its lifetime – the

Each mangrove planted will absorb up to 250kg of CO2 in its lifetime – the same amount produced by an eight-hour flight



same amount produced by an eight-hour flight.

Mariam Al Qubaisi, Head of Sustainability, Etihad Aviation Group, said, "In addition to our sustainability ambitions, we made a commitment to helping our guests and partners travel more sustainably and empower them to make conscious choices. With the latest evolution of our sustainability programme, we're simplifying the process, so anyone can travel sustainably."

Every guest who books an Economy Space Seat will receive confirmation of their gifted mangrove in the Etihad Forest within ten days of flying. From the email link, guests can track, virtually visit, and see photos and other details of their tree, confirming the carbon offset for their recent travel. Guests have the option to register their claimed tree so they can easily revisit their tree at a later day. Through the platform's app, Etihad guests can "chat" with their chatbot-enabled

tree, while also being able to track every tree with satellite maps and access data, including CO2 consumption metrics, which can be tracked.

Guests in other cabins can also take part in the Etihad Forest initiative using Etihad Guest Miles in the Reward Shop, while additional options are offered to meet corporate partner requirements and provide bundled-offset options through the Corporate Conscious Choices programme.

In line with the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Programme by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, the Etihad Mangrove Forest is the culmination of multiple joint programmes between Etihad, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, Jubail Island, The Storey Group, and other partners to support mangrove conservation projects and develop new carbon sinks and natural resources to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Sharjah Bans Single-Use Plastic Bags From January 2024

Sharjah has banned single-use plastic bags and materials in the emirate as of January 1, 2024, as part of its environmentally friendly approach and in support of conservation plans. The decision to ban was taken during a meeting of the Sharjah Executive Council (SEC) on August 23 at the Sharjah Ruler's office under the chairmanship of HH Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah,



Sales outlets will impose a tariff of no less than 25 fils as of October 1, on each single-use plastic bag given to the consumer

and Deputy Chairman of the SEC.

During its meeting, the council discussed several governmental issues associated with development projects in various sectors, legal legislation, and performance indicators for government departments and bodies.

The SEC decision aims to protect the environment from the dangers of plastic pollution and reduce the negative effects resulting from harmful practices. It also aims to enhance and encourage a culture of environmental protection and sustainability by reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bags and materials, leading to their ban.

The ban decision will also facilitate the shift from the consumption of single-use plastic bags and materials to environmentally friendly

Decision aims to reduce the dangers of plastic pollution and encourage a culture of environmental protection and sustainability



alternatives. It will also ensure that multi-use bags and materials are handled sustainably.

According to the decision, it is prohibited, as of 1st January, 2024, to trade, produce, offer or import single-use plastic bags and materials in the emirate, provided that they are replaced with multi-use bags and materials with technical specifications and standards approved by the Department of Municipalities Affairs.

Accordingly, Sharjah's Department of Municipalities Affairs will lay down the necessary plans and policies to implement the provisions of this resolution, determine the single-use plastic bags and materials to be prohibited. and the exceptions contained therein.

The shops in the emirate will start to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags and materials and implement initiatives that

contribute to achieving this.

The shops will also begin informing the consumer of the tariff imposed on the consumption of single-use plastic bags and materials, raising awareness of their risks, and guiding him/her to use appropriate alternatives.

Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, began its ban on single-use plastic bags on June 1, 2022, in its bid to encourage the use of reusable products. The ban is part of a wider initiative to protect the environment and reduce waste and the emirate will also phase out single-use styrofoam cups, plates, and food containers by 2024.

Dubai has also started applying a 25-fils charge to plastic bags since July this year, also with the aim of phasing out disposable bags in two years.

Abu Dhabi Announces Framework To Accelerate UAE's Hydrogen Strategy

The Abu Dhabi Department of Energy (DoE) has announced that the development of its hydrogen policy and regulatory framework aims to accelerate the UAE's national hydrogen strategy and help the country attain global leadership in low-carbon and clean hydrogen.

For the design of this regulatory framework, the DoE is working with key Abu Dhabi government



Abu Dhabi's hydrogen policy framework aims to clearly define policies, regulations, standards and certifications for the emerging hydrogen industry to be globally competitive

and private sector stakeholders, including ADNOC, Mubadala, Masdar, ADQ, TAQA, Emirates Water and Electricity Company, Abu Dhabi Ports, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Department of Economic Development, Department of Municipalities and Transport, Department of Finance, and Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi.

The DoE's hydrogen policy and regulatory framework aim to clearly define policies, regulations, standards, and certifications for the emerging hydrogen industry to be globally competitive. Due to the nature of the industry, its broad target markets, emerging industrial forms and functions, growth characteristics of demand, and deeply technical components, a policy and regulatory framework is essential to ensure sustainable developments and to position Abu Dhabi as a leader in the production

*With abundant land, water, solar power,
Abu Dhabi is committed to being a global
supplier of green hydrogen*



and usage of hydrogen worldwide.

The DoE expects to report on the outcomes of the policy and the regulatory framework before the end of 2022.

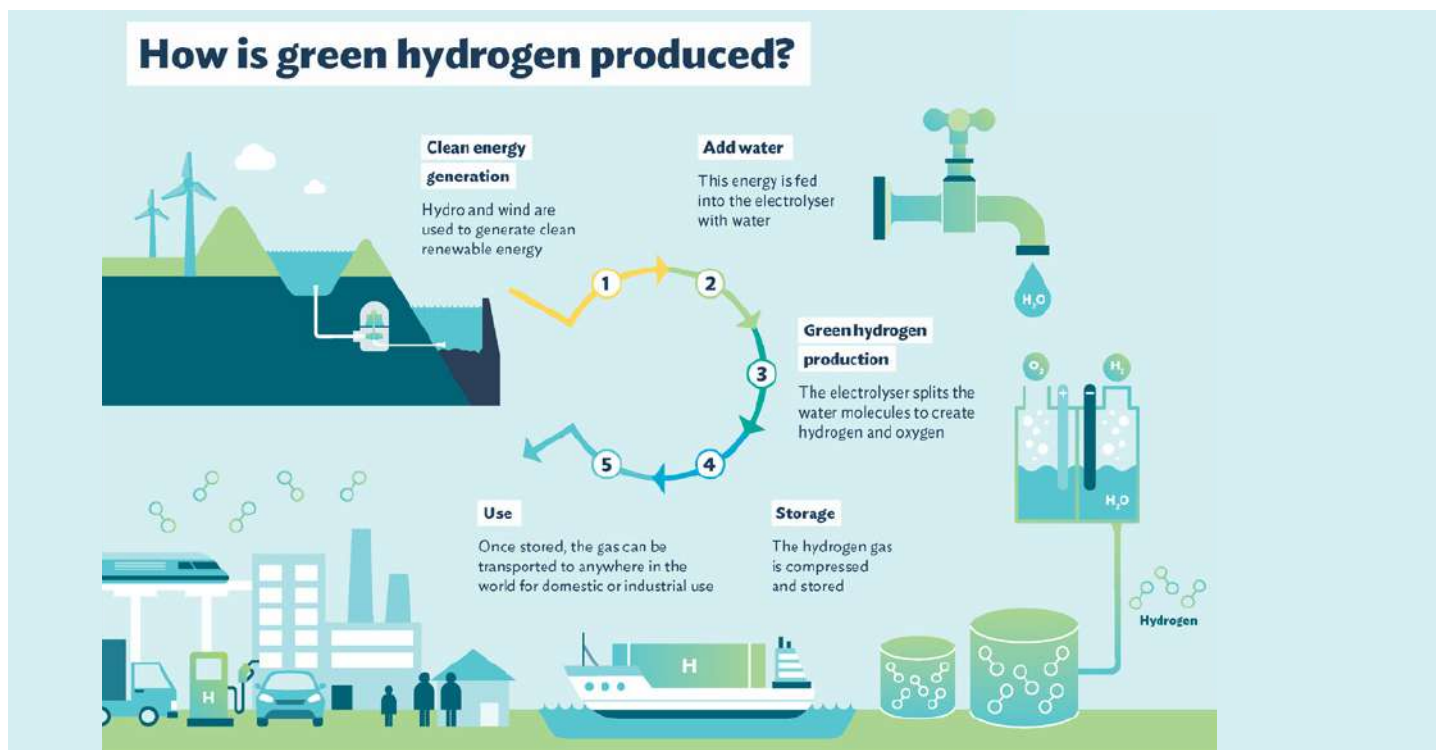
Ahmed Mohammed Belajer Al Rumaithi, Under-Secretary of the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy, said, "A vibrant low carbon hydrogen production and consumption industry will place Abu Dhabi and the UAE at the global forefront of countries producing green energy. It can potentially increase low-carbon hydrogen production in Abu Dhabi to more than a million tonnes per annum by 2030. Locally produced hydrogen will act as a driver of innovation and economic diversification, allowing for the decarbonisation of the economy in line with UAE National Energy Strategy 2050, Net Zero commitment and improved energy security to

support the economic, environmental, and social sustainability requirements of the emirate."

"This is an opportunity for Abu Dhabi, with its abundant solar resources, to contribute to fulfilling a global need that will create new local industries and jobs, offer growth for existing firms, develop new skill sets, and facilitate more research. It will also stimulate more foreign direct investment in the energy sector."

Climate change and the need for decarbonising economies worldwide are driving the pursuit of low-carbon hydrogen technologies as a fuel source.

The Hydrogen Council reported in 2021 that hydrogen is an aspiration for the world as a future energy source. More than 30 countries have released hydrogen roadmaps, and the industry has announced more than 200 hydrogen projects



and ambitious investment plans. Total investments can exceed USD300 billion in hydrogen spending through 2030 – the equivalent of 1.4 percent of global energy funding.

Given that the industry is at an early stage, technical issues need resolving, and effort and investment must be committed to reducing costs. Additionally, hydrogen operations need standards, regulations, and certifications. International organisations, such as the European Commission, stipulate green hydrogen usage and the criteria for its production, ensuring the use of clean fuel sources.

According to the Hydrogen Council, worldwide hydrogen production has already reached 70 million tonnes per year, but 96 percent of this is grey hydrogen, produced from steam reformation of methane and costs about USD1 per

kilogramme. Blue hydrogen, which relies on carbon capture and storage technologies to remove emissions from grey hydrogen, costs around USD2 per kg whereas green hydrogen, produced by electrolyzers derived from renewable electricity, costs at least USD4 per kg. Pink hydrogen is produced as an offshoot of nuclear power.

In Abu Dhabi, hydrogen production is underway as a feedstock for ammonia and industrial processes. However, this is mainly grey hydrogen, for which production relies on natural gas. ADNOC has announced plans to increase its carbon capture capacity five-fold from 800,000 tonnes to five million tonnes by 2030. This will make Abu Dhabi one of the world's lowest-cost and largest producers of blue hydrogen.

With its abundant land, water and solar electricity,

Climate change and the need for decarbonising economies worldwide are driving the pursuit of low-carbon hydrogen technologies as a fuel source



Abu Dhabi is committed to being a global supplier of green hydrogen. The DoE's policy and regulatory framework address the issue of how Abu Dhabi will produce green hydrogen on a large scale.

Abu Dhabi has a unique competitive advantage as a base for low-carbon hydrogen production with large natural gas reserves and sunlight. Other benefits include its industrial capacity across the energy value chain, advanced infrastructure, solid experience in the export shipment of flammable materials, central location between large demand markets, significant financing abilities, and enabling foreign investment regulatory frameworks.

Al Rumaithi added, "The UAE announced a high-level Hydrogen Roadmap at COP26 in Glasgow, and the DoE is working closely with all stakeholders to leverage our resources and

capabilities to position our country as a world-leading low-carbon hydrogen hub, a key trade partner and supplier of low carbon hydrogen. Among critical strategic approaches identified in the framework are global collaborations in research and innovation. We are open to international partnerships to build further and improve our regulatory and policymaking capacity to drive the low-carbon hydrogen transition. In addition, we are exploring opportunities for the exchange of next-generation hydrogen technologies with international providers and research institutions."

The DoE has engaged with diverse entities and government agencies in this critical area for Abu Dhabi's development. All parties are engaged regularly via workshops, meetings, document sharing and consultations.

UAE's First Used Battery Recycling Centre To Open In Ras Al Khaimah

UAE's first used battery recycling centre will be built in Ras Al Khaimah with an investment of AED62.4 million by Royal Gulf Industries.

Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) has welcomed this state-of-the-art lead acid battery recycling company to its industrial ecosystem. A subsidiary of Hyderabad Castings Limited and



part of Nakhat Group, the new company will construct the country's first environment-friendly automotive battery recycling centre on approximately 110,000 sq ft of land at Al Ghail Industrial Zone.

Royal Gulf Industries will employ more than 150 people in its facility, which is set to be ready in the fourth quarter of 2022.

The company aims to recycle up to 35,000 metric tonnes of used lead acid batteries annually. This will produce 21,500 tonnes of lead ingots and 2,400 metric tonnes of plastic granules. Both of these materials will be largely exported to India, Japan, Korea, China and Europe for the manufacturing of new lead acid batteries and cases. This activity accounts for recycling around 58% of the lead acid battery scrap generated in the UAE.

Ramy Jallad, Group CEO of RAKEZ, and Yogesh Nakhat Jain, Managing Director of Royal Gulf Industries, marked the beginning of the recycling unit's construction during a recent signing ceremony held between the two parties at the RAKEZ Compass Coworking Centre.

"We aim to collect waste batteries not just from the UAE, but also import from around the world to make Ras Al Khaimah a hub for recycling," said Hanuman Mal Nakhat, Chairman of Royal Gulf Industries.

In its second phase spanning three years, Royal Gulf Industries plans to invest about AED 125 million and create 350 jobs in Ras Al Khaimah. The company also aims to make the UAE a hub for recycling metals, creating global supply chains.

Arab Youth Council For Climate Change Issues Sustainability Manual

The Arab Youth Council for Climate Change of the Arab Youth Centre, in collaboration with HSBC bank, has issued the Arab Youth Toolkit: "Action Steps for a Sustainable Lifestyle," which highlights the best practices for achieving sustainability for young talents in the Arab region.

The announcement coincided with a training

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course held by the council in preparation for the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt and COP28 in the UAE. The training course was attended by the network's members and several experts and specialists, under the theme, "On the Road to COP".

The guide, the first of its kind issued by the council, focuses on six areas and aims to enable Arab individuals and communities to improve their water and food consumption, shopping patterns, waste management, travel and housing.

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change, lauded the council's initiative to draft a comprehensive climate change manual, which aims to introduce the youth to the best sustainability and resource rationalisation practices.

He also highlighted the importance of involving young leaders in climate action based on the best practices.

"Due to the directives and unlimited support of the country's leadership, the UAE has established a successful model of empowering the youth to lead local climate action and participate in global climate action. We are looking forward to the participation of the youth in COP28 hosted by the UAE in 2023," he said.

Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Vice Chairman of the Arab Youth Centre, stressed that youth play a key role in achieving sustainable development goals and addressing the effects of climate change, as well as in the region's efforts to host COP27 and COP28.

Strategic Partnership Paves Way For New Era Of Sustainable Development

The Museum of the Future has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) to showcase unique technologies and solutions related to the future of environmental sustainability and renewable energy.

The agreement aims to pave the way for constructive research that helps solve today's



New partnership aims to pave the way for constructive research that helps solve today's ecological challenges

ecological challenges. This agreement is working towards enhancing Dubai's position as a leading city of the future that sets a benchmark for low-carbon urban societies and sustainable development.

The partnership was announced at the "Tomorrow, Today" exhibition, which highlights concepts and solutions, such as energy and environmental innovations that, on a broader scale, can help solve global challenges. Spread across 900 square metres, the exhibition showcases existing solutions and concepts that demonstrate the application of advanced technology in renewable energy and sustainability.

This partnership comes as a result of the interest of the Museum of the Future in providing solutions designed to meet future needs through

"The 'Tomorrow, Today' exhibition represents a scientific environment that motivates global talents to innovate and develop solutions in response to future challenges



applying technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. They have the potential to contribute to building sustainable low-carbon urban societies and promote sustainable development in the green economy.

The "Tomorrow, Today" exhibition, located on the museum's second floor, also focuses on other critical areas, including space, health, cities, and technology in the near future. Each exhibit offers visitors a unique experience and inspires them to reimagine the world of tomorrow.

"DEWA was one of the first entities to support the Museum of the Future by building a solar power plant that supplies the museum with clean energy," said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA.

"Our new partnership will make the museum a new global platform highlighting DEWA's leading

global achievements in sustainability, clean and renewable energy, investing in the latest Fourth Industrial Revolution and disruptive technologies to provide futuristic innovative solutions and advanced services," Al Tayer stated.

"Through this partnership, we will work to select the best innovations and technologies to display in the museum, and we will work to support the government initiatives to contribute to making Dubai the smart city of the future, in addition to discovering more future technologies," he added.

Khalfan Belhoul, CEO of the Dubai Future Foundation, said, "Strategic partnerships play a pivotal role in achieving the museum's vision and enhancing Dubai's leading position as a global laboratory for promising future technologies and concepts."

MoCCAEE Launches UAE Climate- Responsible Companies Pledge

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCAEE) launched the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge on August 29, 2022.

The pledge aims to increase the engagement of the private sector in the country's decarbonisation drive, in line with the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategic Initiative.



Pledge launched during the 4th stage of the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition aims to boost private sector's contribution to UAE's Net Zero by 2050 initiative

The pledge forms the basis of future collaborations between the private sector, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, including Emirates Nature, in association with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a strategic implementation partner of the pledge, which aims to support private sector entities in implementing their net-zero plans.

The launch took place as part of the fourth stage of the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA), a series of sector-specific assemblies aimed at establishing a national sustainability culture and highlighting the country's efforts to achieve climate neutrality. The fourth NDCA took place under the theme, "Roadmap to achieve net zero in the hospitality sector".

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, said, "The

Pledge is part of MoCCA's initiatives focused on scaling up the UAE's climate action



pledge will help us, the UAE Government, to engage with entities that are keen to make an active contribution to our climate neutrality movement, and align their efforts to achieve our common objective.

"I invite all companies to show that they care about their impact on our climate, and are ready and willing to translate their commitment into action, by signing the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge," she added.

The event saw 21 companies across key sectors such as cement, aluminum and steel, join the pledge, which include BEEAH, Emerson, Emirates Nature-WWF, Majid Al Futtaim Group, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Masdar, Emirates Global Aluminium, Emirates Steel Arkan Group, Aldar Properties, Emirates Environmental Group, Strata, Al Yah Satellite Communications Company

(Yahsat), Chalhoub Group, Pure Harvest, AESG, Taka Solutions, Lafarge Emirates Cement, EY, EV Lab and TotalEnergies.

The companies have committed to intensifying their collective efforts to combat climate change, by measuring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions in a transparent manner, drafting ambitious science-based plans to reduce their carbon footprint, and sharing these plans with the UAE Government to help achieve the national net-zero target by 2050.

The signatories also pledged to consider climate change mitigation and adaptation as core values and principles in their business and operational models and adopt an all-inclusive approach to engage the youth, women and vulnerable segments in drafting their net-zero plans.

Lexus Unveils The All-New Lexus RZ, Its First-Ever Battery EV

Lexus has unveiled details of the new "RZ", the luxury brand's first globally available pure Battery EV (BEV) model.

Since the launch of the RX400h in 2005, Lexus has been a pioneer of electrification within the luxury market. As with the first RX hybrid model, the engineers at Lexus have imbued its hybrid vehicles with an excellent driving identity and



The new RZ features a design pursuing a uniquely Lexus Battery EV identity and proportions, born from a dynamic driving experience

environmental performance.

In 2019, Lexus' fundamental approach toward vehicle electrification evolved thanks to the Lexus Electrified vision. Lexus aims to invigorate all guests' authentic love for driving exhilaration, and in doing so, will broaden its Lexus Electrified portfolio of hybrid electric vehicle (HEV), battery electric vehicle (BEV), and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) products to exceed the needs and expectations of a more diverse set of luxury buyers.

This portfolio expansion will move Lexus toward another essential goal: The realization of a sustainable global society. Lexus will contribute to the realization of a carbon-neutral society by offering a full lineup of BEVs in all categories by 2030. Five years later, Lexus seeks to attain 100 percent BEV sales globally.

A new era begins for Lexus Battery EVs and the Lexus Electrified vision



To meet these challenges, Lexus will rigorously improve its products, along with the expertise of its personnel, by repeating "drive and fix" development at Toyota Technical Center Shimoyama (TTCS), Lexus' new operational base.

As Lexus' first globally available dedicated BEV model, the new RZ marks Lexus' transition into a BEV-centered brand, and embodies the unique Lexus vehicle design and driving experience brought on by advanced electrification technology. For driving performance, the use of a BEV-specific platform (e-TNGA), as well as a lightweight and highly rigid body, has greatly evolved the fundamental performance of the vehicle by achieving optimal weight distribution through ideal placement of the battery and motor.

In addition, the adoption of a new steering control and Steer-by-Wire system, along with the

DIRECT4 all-wheel drive system using electrification technology, enables vehicle control that is faithful to the driver's intention. An exhilarating driving experience is realized, making the RZ feel like a true extension of its driver.

Furthermore, the brand pursued the creation of an audio sound that seamlessly conveys vehicle condition changes to the driver. These efforts are being carried out at TTCS, Lexus' new development base, to enhance the uniquely Lexus driving flavor, the Lexus Driving Signature.

The exterior design expresses the seamless acceleration and dynamic torque-filled performance specific to BEVs. Lexus' identifiable spindle grille is replaced by a BEV Spindle Body which focuses on aerodynamic efficiencies, optimized proportions, and style, versus serving the cooling and exhaust needs of an internal combustion engine. This styling evolution ushers in a new Lexus aesthetic and establishes a new design direction for BEV offerings.

Within the spindle body is a minimalist, spacious interior focused on amplifying a sustainable mobility message through its application of mindfully sourced materials. Though simplistic, the space is luxurious thanks to its crafted touches and advanced technologies.





In addition, the cabin features an available panoramic roof which visually opens the space, while passenger comfort is improved by a highly efficient heating system featuring a Lexus-first radiant heater.

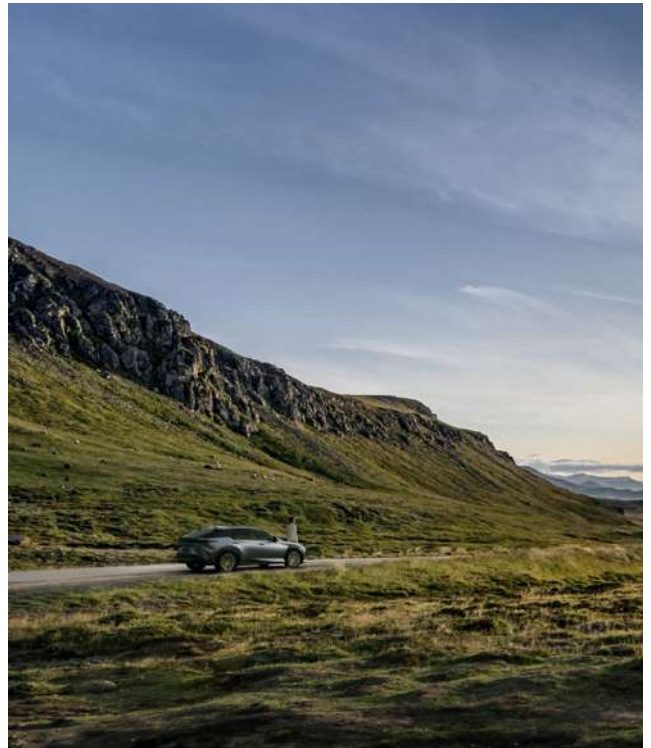
The “Omotenashi” philosophy behind the interior is designed to enhance the connection between humans and machines. Keeping the cabin clear of clutter means the driver can really enjoy the driving pleasure that the RZ has to offer.

The newly launched RZ450e will have a 71.6kWhr battery pack with a predicted range of 450km (J-WLTC) and 230kW of power via the dual electric motors. The engineers at Lexus are not just proud of the electric tech but also the construction of this car with the incorporation of sustainable materials and processes to respect the world around it.

Main Product Features

- The evolution of the uniquely personalized Lexus Driving Signature using electrification technology
- DIRECT4, a new all-wheel drive force distribution system that supports predictable and faithful driving performance according to the driver's intentions
- New, stronger human-machine connection made possible through a Steer-by-Wire system
- Achieves excellent driving performance with a dedicated BEV platform that enhances its fundamental characteristics
- Achieves a balance between sound generation and a very quiet interior space—the DNA of Lexus

Using a new all-wheel drive system called DIRECT4, RZ offers drivers a refined, human-centered driving experience



- Aerodynamic performance that contributes to driving performance and a cutting-edge design specific to BEVs
- BEV system utilizing technology cultivated over many years with HEVs

Design philosophy

RZ's spindle shape design generates a distinctive roof spoiler to suppress aerodynamic force acting on the body in a crosswind. This ensures a more stable driving feel. The center of the roof is shaped to allow air to flow smoothly from the sloped rear glass surface to the rear of the vehicle. The ducktail shape on the end of the trunk reduces aerodynamic drag by balancing the aft air flow. In addition, the generated downforce contributes to a stable driving feel. An undercover is used to flatten the underbody to reduce aerodynamic drag.

Side and rear designs express the dynamic performance brought about by electrification technology while exterior colors enhance the BEV character. A human-centered cockpit maximizes driving pleasure while ambient illumination and interior colors lead to a comfortable interior.



'The Green Planet' Unleashes A Sensory Experience Of A Tropical Rainforest

In a miniature bio-dome inside an origami-style glass building, the gigantic kapok tree stands four stories high, forming a closed ecosystem that evokes the world of tropical rainforests sustaining over 3,000 species of plants and animals living under the largest artificial tree in the world.

On a media tour of The Green Planet project



'The Green Planet' is a tropical forest recreated with the rich biodiversity, typical to any tropical rainforest

located in City Walk Dubai, delegates viewed the bio-dome, which is made up of four levels, the Canopy, the Midstory, the Forest Floor, and the Flooded Rainforest. Each level discusses the role and importance of every part of a rainforest.

The Canopy forms the roof of the tropical forest, absorbs most of the sunlight, and spreads rain. It has many types of rain birds and the famous bat cave that houses "Seba" bats in their relaxing natural habitat.

The Midstory, where trees usually have large leaves to absorb any sunlight, is filtered through the Canopy to give the forest floor moisture, calm and shade as sunlight hardly reaches the land where many monkeys and reptiles inhabit.

The rainforest floor on the second floor is damp and dark, and hardly any sunlight reaches the

Within the enchanting bio-dome is a tropical indoor rain forest sustaining over 3,000 plants and animals



ground, unlike the other brighter and more vibrant layers where the red-footed tortoise lives.

There is plenty of ecological life on the first floor, where the submerged rainforest is complete with a giant aquarium full of fish such as *arapaima* and *Arowana* and about 1,000 piranhas and stingrays.

On the ground floor, the "Creatures of the Night" offers its guests the chance to experience how tropical creatures go about their day-to-day activities, in the dark. The walkthrough is carried underground, where The Green Planet operators have full control over the day and night cycles.

Meanwhile, the main 7-storey tropical biodome that accounts for the majority of The Green Planet allows in natural sunlight from outside.

The Slow Loris is just one amongst the many nocturnal species here. Guests will be able to

admire others such as the Lace Monitor, Burmese Pythons pair, the Tokay gecko, Marine toads, Parma Wallabies, The Laughing Kookaburra, and Carpet pythons who have had over 72 babies! This one-of-a-kind facility aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining the delicate balance of nature and inspire guests to take an interest in the value of the world's oldest living ecosystem.

"There are more than 3,000 species of animals and plants, including hundreds of birds, reptiles, fish, mammals and invertebrates," said Sarah Stevens, Head of Operations/Curator at The Green Planet.

Regarding their original habitat, Sarah Stevens indicated that all the animals came from responsible sources and reputable animal care facilities around the world, and all official approvals and required permits were obtained



through the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment before arriving at their new home in The Green Planet, based on its carefully studied practices for planning and attracting the animals.

Stevens emphasised that the facility provides a suitable environment that mimics the animals' original habitat, as it is in a unique building specially designed to house rainforest plants and animals in an environment similar to their original habitat.

She stated that the bio-dome implements many sustainability initiatives, including recycling water from tropical rainstorms to be used in irrigation lines, not using single-use plastics in The Green Planet Café, gifting seeds, raising awareness and educating guests and others.

Regarding the plans for future development of

the project, she explained that interaction between animals, the interaction of animals with guests, and the experiences of guests continue to grow and change every year, adding that more new animals will arrive before the end of 2022.

Stevens explained that the memorandum of understanding recently signed with Dubai Safari Park paves the way for further cooperation in developing animal breeding, improving their conditions, facilitating their movement between the two places, and ensuring the opening of communication channels between two of the leading animal facilities in Dubai.

She noted that The Green Planet is working to strengthen its international relations and continue close cooperation with other institutions concerned with animal care in the UAE.

UAE Steps Up Efforts To Strengthen Food Security

The UAE is continuing to strengthen its food security systems, through a comprehensive range of policies that include promoting cooperation with other countries and markets, diversifying sources, and attracting local and foreign agricultural investment.

The country's food import rate increased by 21 percent in the first half of 2022, recording over

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41,000 tonnes of imported food daily, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment said.

Essa Al Hashmi, Assistant Under-Secretary of the Ministry for Sustainable Communities and Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for Green Development and Climate Change, said the food trade is a leading national sector and stressed that ensuring food abundance and the continuity and sustainability of supply chains is a key goal of the ministry, and is part of its strategy to ensure the country's food security.

The ministry is also keen to make food widely available, in coordination with federal and local authorities, he added, affirming that according to data on border crossings, the previous months witnessed the entry of large food consignments into the country, which included commodities and

products that were sold in local markets, as well as others that were re-exported.

Al Hashmi explained the country's efforts to provide food and ensure the sustainability of supply chains, including a diverse range of imports from all countries, most notably India, Brazil, Canada, the US, Saudi Arabia, Australia and Pakistan.

He then highlighted the UAE's efforts to ensure the availability of food and the continuity of supply chains, which involve the expansion of foreign agricultural investment operations with a focus on strategic food crops, such as wheat, rice, vegetables and fruits, and livestock, stressing that the ministry has adopted the highest food safety systems to ensure compliance to its requirements and specifications.

Hamdan Bin Zayed Visits National Aquarium

While visiting the National Aquarium, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), was briefed about the efforts to rehabilitate maritime species in Abu Dhabi, in cooperation with the aquarium.

Sheikh Hamdan was accompanied to the



His Highness toured the Specialised Centre for the Rehabilitation of Turtles and Marine Biology, which provides veterinary care to sea turtles before releasing them back into their natural habitat

aquarium, the largest of its kind in the region, by Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Ahmed Mattar Al Dhaheri, Director of the Office of the Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region; Dr. Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, EAD Director-General; Saeed bin Omair bin Yousef, Chairman of the National Aquarium; and several officials.

Sheikh Hamdan began the visit by viewing a centre specialising in rehabilitating turtles and other marine life in Abu Dhabi. He was also briefed about the aquarium's pioneering educational programmes aimed at raising the public's awareness, by teaching them about the various maritime species living in the emirate.

Sheikh Hamdan then visited Bu Tinah Island and explored the fisheries and sharks present in Arabian Gulf waters and various oceans around

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed reviews efforts to rehabilitate marine life in Abu Dhabi



the world, as well as the "Water Canal Project", which includes several sports and entertainment facilities, movie theatres, nearly 146 commercial units, and a marina that will manage boats and marine taxis in the canal.

During the visit, Sheikh Hamdan inaugurated the first boat of its kind dedicated to rescuing marine species in the emirate. "Since the establishment of EAD, it has sought to protect local marine ecosystems and address challenges threatening their biodiversity, by launching programmes and initiatives aimed at monitoring marine species and protecting them using advanced technologies," he said.

He also lauded the efforts of EAD and the National Aquarium to rehabilitate turtles and return them to their natural habitat, in implementation of its national turtle protection plan.

Saeed bin Yousef noted that the launch of the new rescue boat will enable the aquarium's team to respond to emergencies in the ocean, adding that it is cooperating with EAD to support the efforts to protect local and endangered species.

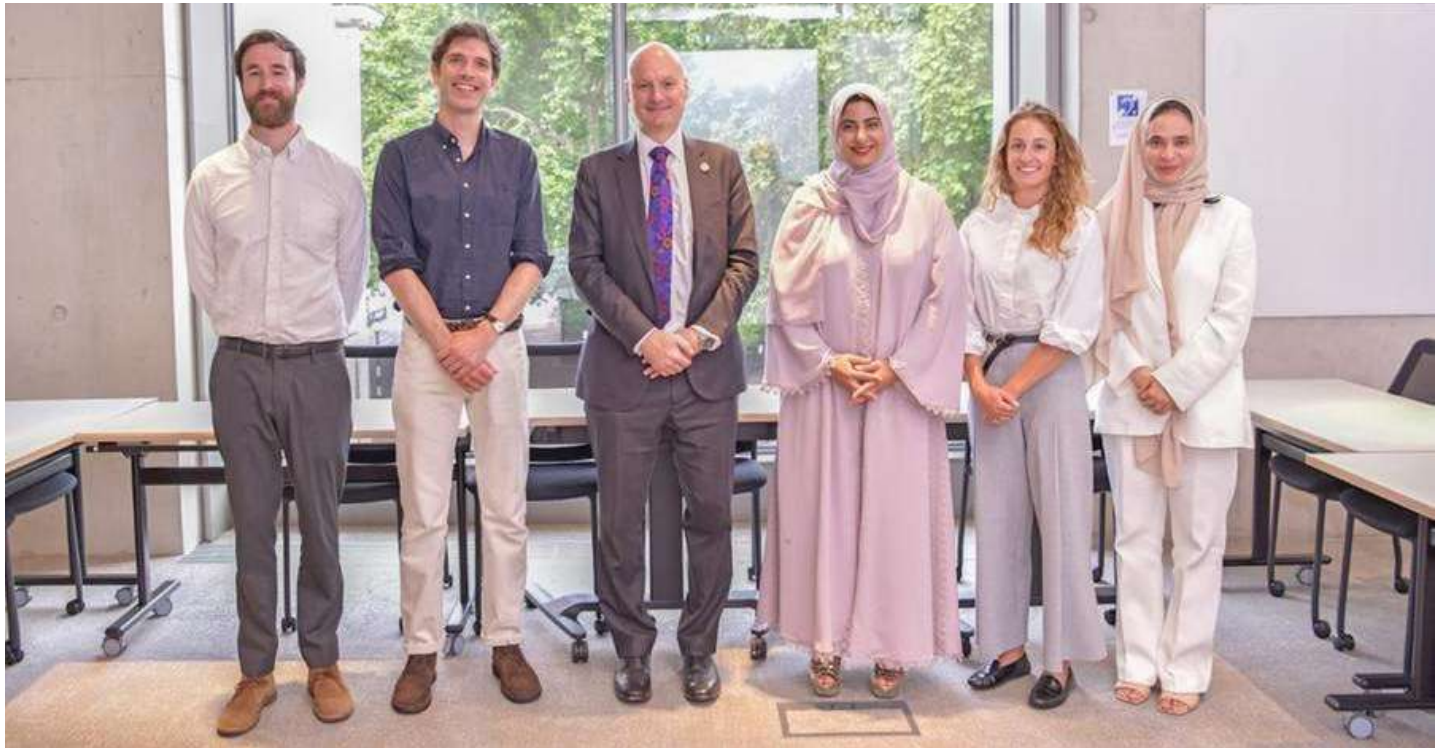
EAD and the National Aquarium signed a cooperation agreement in 2020 to enhance their cooperation in protecting the emirate's natural wildlife. Under the agreement, the National Aquarium will offer full support to rehabilitate turtles, by providing full veterinary treatment, in-house veterinary care, and animal care, in general, until the turtles are fully recovered and can return to their natural habitat.

The National Aquarium will also assist EAD in carrying out research studies, by supplying satellite-based wildlife tracking devices.

UAE's Sheikha Shamma Explores Avenues Of Climate Change During LSE Visit

Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Founder and CEO of Alliances for Global Sustainability, met with key figures at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) to discuss collaborative efforts in the advancement of climate change research.

During the visit in early August, Sheikha Shamma visited the Grantham Research Institute on



Sheikha Shamma participated in high-level exploratory discussions with international experts to shape global climate change policies

Climate Change and the Environment, established by the LSE in 2008 with the aim of bringing together international experts across finance, geography, international development, and political economy to tackle climate change.

An accomplished business leader, philanthropist and published author, Sheikha Shamma has founded multiple organisations that are accelerating the sustainability agenda in the Middle East. She has played an integral role in developing national climate action strategies, building a circular economy in the UAE, and forging pathways to gender balanced boards.

Sheikha Shamma participated in high-level exploratory discussions with Lord Nicholas Stern, Chairman of the Grantham Research Institute; Bob Ward, Policy and Communications Director; Josh Burke, Senior Policy Fellow, and

A mutual commitment was made to develop a framework to catalyse the growth of energy saving and climate tech projects in the UK and the UAE



Viktor Roezer, Research Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute, which focused on how her extensive work in the field of sustainability and the environment could align with the work of the Institute, and contribute to shaping global climate change policies moving forward.

All parties emphasised the importance of strategic collaboration in mobilising financing for sustainability initiatives from across the public and private sector, and the critical role that the upcoming UN Climate Change Conferences (COP27 and COP28), being hosted in Egypt later this year and in the UAE in 2023, are set to play. It was agreed that COP28, in particular, would be a global stocktaking opportunity for governments to evaluate progress in delivering on their Net-Zero promises.

In the meeting, a mutual commitment was made

to develop a framework to catalyse the growth of energy saving and climate tech projects in the UK and the UAE.

Sheikha Shamma commented, "The climate crisis poses an irreversible threat to our planet and it is imperative that we seek new avenues to manage and mitigate the effects as much as possible through mutual collaboration. It was an honour to witness first-hand the incredible work being done to identify and implement long-term solutions in tackling climate change."

Bob Ward, Policy and Communications Director at the Grantham Research Institute, said, "It was a great pleasure to meet Sheikha Shamma and to hear about her plans to promote more investment in sustainability. We look forward to exploring potential areas of collaboration and support."

Breaking New Ground: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Fifty years after becoming the first settlement in Malaysia to be granted city status in 1972, Kuala Lumpur, the country's capital, is now well on its way towards becoming a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous city for its nearly 2 million population.

The city is largely praised for its constant monitoring and publication on the progress of



The capital city of Malaysia re-envisioned itself as a sustainable, green, flourishing city for its people

Kuala Lumpur's environmental performance and for involving citizens, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in decisions on projects with major environmental impact.

Technology is central to the country's sustainability agenda. Kuala Lumpur has rolled out a smart city plan, which includes accelerating digital transformation by focusing on education and promoting cloud technologies and artificial intelligence (AI), among other areas.

Greater Kuala Lumpur has seen an increasing number of "greening" opportunities for some of the country's traditional innovation clusters, in particular energy, electronics manufacturing, IT outsourcing, and other digital economy sectors. Asia's fast-growing digital economies have also created unique synergies for digitally "native"

Urban planning in Kuala Lumpur works to create a city that can withstand the effects of climate change and reduce risks from disasters



resources particularly in the aspects of green transportation, solid waste, water, and energy. This will encourage infrastructure development that is resilient and climate smart. Indirectly, it enhances competence and livability to drive future green growth.

The blueprint focuses on planning, management, and development. The development includes mitigation measures, adaptation to the effects of natural disasters and climate change, efficiency in reduction of carbon emissions, and effective resource management.

There are four strategic directions in the plan:

- Resilience against Natural Disasters and Climate Change
- Efficiency in Urban Resource Management
- Efficiency in Reduction of Carbon Emissions
- Low Carbon Community Development

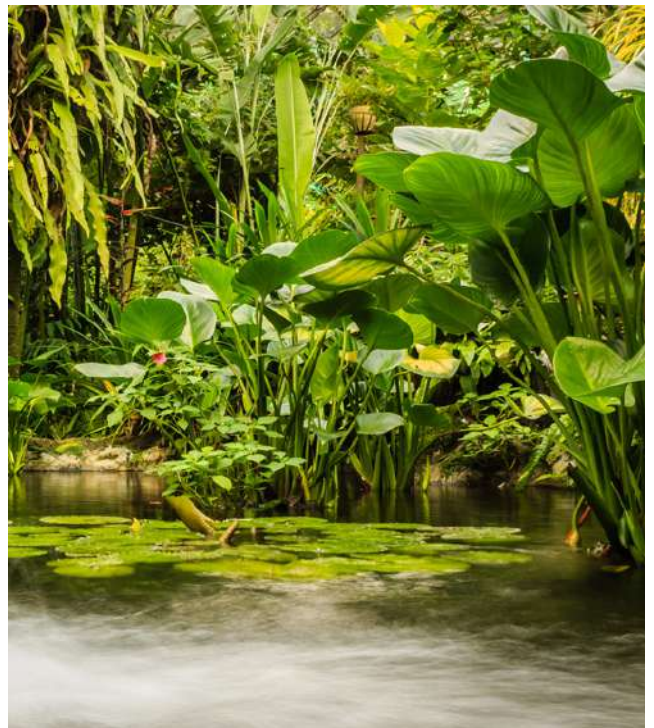
firms that are looking to use Kuala Lumpur as a hub from which they can tap green business opportunities in the region.

Urban planning in Kuala Lumpur today works to create a city that can withstand the effects of climate change and reduce risks from disasters.

Low Carbon Society Blueprint of 2030

Based on the Kuala Lumpur Low Carbon Society Blueprint of 2030, the reduction of carbon emissions in the power generation sector and the improvements to energy efficiency are expected to contribute as much as 70 percent of overall carbon mitigation potential in Kuala Lumpur.

As a climate-smart and low-carbon city, Kuala Lumpur strengthens its resolve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transform into a low-carbon global city that efficiently manages





The increase in frequency and intensity of climate-related natural disasters such as flash floods, droughts, and landslides will carry a huge impact if they occur in high-density areas such as Kuala Lumpur. This is even more vital as Kuala Lumpur is the hub of the nation's growth with a large population.

Therefore, efforts towards enhancing resilience against climate change and natural disasters are important in the coming years. This strategy aims to execute a planning and development strategy that increases the city's resilience against climate change and natural disasters.

This strategic push also focuses on the development of resource-efficient infrastructure to improve resource management relating to water supply, sewerage systems, solid waste, and electricity in ways that are efficient, reliable and

sustainable.

Some of the accomplishments so far of the Low Carbon Society Blueprint include:

- Dedicated cycle lanes in the downtown area of Kuala Lumpur
- Enhanced the use of effective messages/signs to deliver green information to the public
- Property developers are encouraged to build green buildings with special incentive packages
- Air-conditioned walkways run on solar energy
- Diesel-powered vehicles use B10 Biodiesel only

Sunway City

As home to some of the globe's fastest-growing economies, the skyline of the Malaysian capital demonstrates the economic success that the

Technology is central to Kuala Lumpur's sustainability agenda



region has recently enjoyed.

Many companies in the country have started to recognize the need to balance development and growth with sustainable practices, and that long-term success isn't possible without a healthy planet. One corporation setting a model example for Southeast Asia and beyond is Malaysia's Sunway Group.

The leading Malaysian conglomerate with interests in real estate, construction, education, and healthcare, Sunway Group has built several sustainable townships. Its crowning achievement is still Sunway City Kuala Lumpur.

Built on 800 acres of land that once housed a large tin-mining operation, Sunway City was Malaysia's first integrated township. It was an ambitious project that turned a former wasteland into a clean, green, modern city with a



rehabilitated ecosystem. Envisioned decades before environmental preservation was a hot topic, it is a prime example of how sustainability runs in the city's DNA.

Recognized as a Low Carbon City by the Malaysian Institute of Planners, it is home to malls, hotels, universities, a hospital, and even a theme park. The community runs electric buses and has many green buildings and facilities. Its ecosystem also hosts 150 species of flora and fauna.

ClimaTech Run Urges Global Youth To Spark Climate Action On The Road To COP27

As part of Egypt's COP27 activities, the Ministries of International Cooperation, Environment, Communications and Information Technology have announced the launch of the global ClimaTech Run 2022 competition, which targets tech entrepreneurs and digital artists who share a collective passion for sustainability to present their work at COP27.



The launch ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, and H.E. Dr. Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

Engaging with partners from the private sector and the entrepreneurial community, including Google and Microsoft, ClimaTech Run is a global multi-stage programme for tech entrepreneurs and digital artists.

Minister of International Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat, emphasized that Egypt believes in the utmost potential of the private sector and entrepreneurs to hammer out innovations that tackle food security, energy and sustainable transportation.

The competition has two complementing tracks:

the first track is for global tech entrepreneurs (ICT for Climate Action Track), and the second track is for digital artists (DigitalArt4Climate). ClimaTech Run will extend over a period of one month until September 22 to create a globally connected ecosystem that fuels inspiration and joy for climate action through worldwide live events and webinars.

There will be 10 shortlisted candidates, a special grand prize of USD 100,000 and a top African startup prize of USD 50,000. The application closes on September 22, and ten startups will be shortlisted for the pitching event during COP27 in November in Sharm El Sheikh.

A public vote will also occur in the second half of September to select the shortlisted digital art candidates for the best artistic expression of climate action.

Aldar Joins SBTi's Net Zero Expert Advisory Group

Aldar Properties (Aldar) has joined the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)'s Expert Advisory Group, making it the first Middle Eastern company to advise SBTi on a science-based net-zero target-setting for real estate and construction companies around the world.

SBTi is a partnership between CDP, the United



Nations Global Compact (UNGC), World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

More than 3,000 companies worldwide are working with SBTi to reduce emissions and support the Paris Agreement's goals to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degree Celsius. SBTi seeks to help companies reduce emissions in the real economy by encouraging science-based targeting.

Senior Aldar executives will actively participate and share their expertise with SBTi's Expert Advisory Group, aiding in the creation of consistent science-based target principles, definitions and metrics that will be used as a benchmark for real estate and construction

companies around the world. The methodologies developed by the buildings project advisory group will be approved by CDP, UNGC, WRI and WWF before being made available to all SBTi stakeholders at no additional cost to support their alignment with the Paris Agreement goals.

Greg Fewer, Group Chief Financial and Sustainability Officer at Aldar, said, "The need to put into place reliable and unified reporting standards and measures is becoming more urgent as investors, lenders and rating agencies request a higher degree of access to non-financial corporate metrics.

"Global real estate and construction companies have an opportunity to take a leading role in combatting climate change, and the work we will do with partners at SBTi will support the world's path to net zero," he added.

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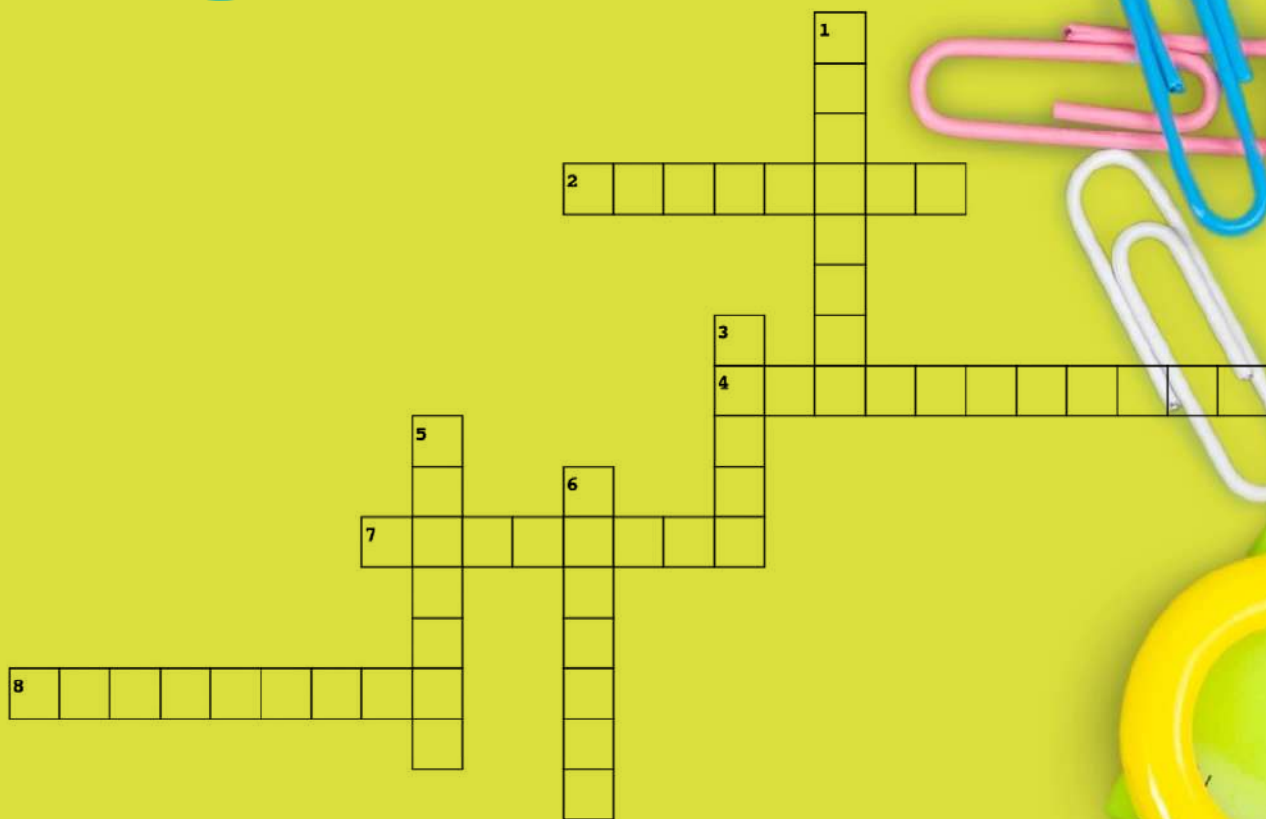
Answers: 1) Drought 2) Cycling 3) Transport 4) Scenery 5) Green
6) Sustainable 7) Renewable 8) Forests

Word
Search

E	E	C	G	R	R	E	V	R	G	S	E	E	U
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R	T	T	P	G	S	R	P	S	D	G	N	S	R
L	C	T	A	E	E	W	U	A	V	Y	T	E	E

DESERT
ENERGY
TURTLES
NATURAL
RECYCLED
VEGANISM
PRODUCE
OVERUSE
PLASTICS
REUSE
PANDEMIC
WATER

Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. A land mass that projects well above its surroundings
4. Class of people engaged in growing food crops
7. Fauna
8. Carry, convey

Down

1. An act that has disastrous consequences
3. Unwanted material
5. Weather conditions
6. Synthetic material

Answers: 1) Disaster 2) Mountain 3) Waste 4) Agriculture
5) Climate 6) Plastic 7) Wildlife 8) Transport

WORD OF THE DAY:

NATURE RESERVE

A nature reserve is a protected area of importance for flora, fauna, or features of geological or other special interest, which is reserved and managed for purposes of conservation and to provide special opportunities for study or research. They may be designated by government institutions in some countries, or by private landowners, such as charities and research institutions.

Cultural practices that roughly equate to the establishment and maintenance of reserved areas for animals date back to antiquity, with King Tissa of Ceylon establishing one of the world's earliest wildlife sanctuaries in the 3rd century BC.

The UAE is home to plenty of nature reserves that aim to protect the country's natural flora and fauna. Some of these include:

- **Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, Dubai**
Ras Al Khor is one of the few protected urban areas in the world. Sitting right at the peak of Dubai's Creek, the wetland reserve attracts large numbers of migratory birds. Three bird reserves are currently located in the sanctuary.
- **Wadi Wurayah, Fujairah**
In 2009, Wadi Wurayah became the first Emirati protected mountain area after a three-year campaign by the Emirates Wildlife Society.
- **Wasit Wetland Centre, Sharjah**
This nature reserve was originally a wastewater dump. In 2005, it underwent a rehabilitation process where over 30,000



trees were re-planted. It officially re-opened in 2015. The wetland is located in between the land and the sea, featuring dunes and salty lagoons.

- **Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi**
In 1977, HRH Sheikh Zayed passed a law prohibiting hunting on the island and started developing it as a wildlife preserve in his "Greening of the Desert" program, which aimed to provide a haven for many of Arabia's endangered wildlife species. Several millions trees were planted and numerous animals species introduced to the island, including gazelle, oryx, llama, rhea, giraffe, and ostrich.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER, SEPTEMBER 16

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

The phaseout of controlled uses of ozone

depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change. Furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth.

The scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer prompted the international community to establish a mechanism for cooperation to take action to protect the ozone layer. This was formalized in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which was adopted and signed by 28 countries on 22 March 1985. In September 1987, this led to the drafting of The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The principal aim of the Montreal Protocol was to protect the ozone layer by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge and technological information. On 16th September 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties in the history of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The World Environmental Health Day is annually observed to raise awareness of the detrimental impacts of today's most pressing environmental concerns on human health.

This day was first officially commemorated on 26 September 2011. It was launched by the Council of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) – an organization established in 1986 and based in London, England, aiming to disseminate knowledge about environmental health among people and promote cooperation between countries to improve the environmental situation of our Earth.

The theme for the 2022 World Environmental Health Day is 'Strengthening Environmental Health Systems for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals'.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity now and in the future. Environmental Health plays a pivotal role in the implementation of these SDGs. It is interesting to note that Environmental Health fits into 7 SDGs, 19 targets and 30 indicators of the SDGs.



What can you do to help?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Switch off taps when not in use
- ☒ Carry a water bottle
- ☒ Cycle around
- ☒ Use public transport
- ☒ Reuse plastic bags

COLOUR ME!



'People Of All Ages Need To 'Join Forces' For A Better World'

International Youth Day celebrates "the power of partnerships across generations," the UN chief said in his message for the day.

Commemorated annually on August 12, Secretary-General António Guterres noted that this year's theme – "Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages" – reminds us of "a basic truth" that "we need people of all ages,



young and old alike, to join forces to build a better world for all."

Too often, ageism, bias and discrimination prevent this essential collaboration, the top UN official observed. "When young people are shut out of the decisions being made about their lives, or when older people are denied a chance to be heard, we all lose," he spelled out.

Guterres upheld that as the world faces a series of challenges threatening our collective future, "solidarity and collaboration are more essential than ever." From COVID-19 to climate change and conflicts to poverty, inequality and discrimination, "we need all hands on deck" to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and build a better, more peaceful future that everyone seeks.

We need to support young people with massive

investments in education and skills-building "including through next month's Transforming Education Summit," said the Secretary-General. "We also need to support gender equality and expanded opportunities for young people to participate in civic and political life."

The UN chief maintained that it is not enough to just listen to young people, "we need to integrate them into decision-making mechanisms at the local, national and international levels." This is at the heart of the UN's proposal to establish a new Youth Office at the Organization.

At the same time, he pointed to the importance of ensuring that older generations have access to social protection and opportunities to give back to their communities as well as the ability to share the decades of accumulated experience that they have lived.

UAE Highlights Mangrove Conservation At Floriade Expo 2022

The UAE celebrated its honorary national day - which coincided with the UNESCO International Day of the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on 26th July - as part of its participation in the 7th edition of Floriade Expo 2022 held in the Netherlands.

The UAE Pavilion dedicated this day to celebrate the importance of mangroves, one of the most



UAE spotlighted its efforts in mangrove conservation to mark its honorary national day at leading international horticultural exhibition and garden festival

crucial halophytes to the UAE's ecosystem, covering more than 150 sq km of the country. The pavilion also highlighted the country's efforts to conserve mangroves and support efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Jamal Al Musharakh, UAE Ambassador to the Netherlands and Commissioner-General of the UAE Pavilion at Floriade Expo 2022, hosted a number of dignitaries, visitors, and students interested in the environmental field. He exchanged the UAE's success stories in preserving its ecosystem and efforts to protect mangroves, in addition to its leadership in global initiatives addressing climate change.

He said, "One of the most valuable halophytes within the UAE's natural environment is the mangrove, nicknamed the 'Guardian of the Coast'. Mangroves sustain entire ecosystems,

The mangroves are one of the most important salt-tolerant plants featured in the UAE Pavilion at Floriade Expo 2022 for their value, importance, and conservation efforts



support plants and animals, and help them grow and develop. The protection of mangroves is a legacy that we have been entrusted with by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who initiated a massive forestation drive to increase the number of mangrove trees in the UAE, followed by extensive campaigns to increase its planting to reach 100 million trees by 2030."

He noted that the UAE commemorated a symbolic national day in conjunction with this global celebration, stressing that this reflects the UAE's future aspirations and highlights its tangible efforts in mangrove preservation. The UAE, he remarked, is committed to enhancing and protecting its natural habitats, which in turn will help the country confront environmental challenges.

As part of the celebration, the UAE Pavilion

launched a special exhibit dedicated to the mangroves in the presence of a number of local officials. The exhibit, featuring the "Guardians of the Coast," outlines their importance in protecting and preserving biodiversity worldwide. The exhibition concluded on 14th August and was held in the "Green Garden" saltwater park. The park provides visitors with valuable knowledge related to the biosaline agriculture system, the UAE's efforts in preserving mangroves and advanced research projects undertaken by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi.

The mangroves are one of the most important halophytic (salt-tolerant) plants featured in the UAE Pavilion at Floriade Expo 2022 for their value, importance, and conservation efforts. The exhibition also features other types of plants: salicornia, quinoa, microalgae, and seaweed.

GCC Countries To Promote Green Investments At WETEX, DSS

The Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and the Dubai Solar Show (DSS) are witnessing an increasing turnout from exhibitors, sponsors and investors from the GCC countries.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority is hosting the two events from September 27 - 29 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.



DEWA invites international companies to benefit from investment opportunities at WETEX and Dubai Solar Show

During WETEX and DSS, the exhibitors, sponsors and investors from the GCC countries can learn about the latest technologies, innovative solutions and investment opportunities for clean and renewable energy, water, green economy, smart cities and sustainability to keep pace with the increasing demand for clean and renewable energy in the region.

This is in accordance with national strategies in the GCC countries, which focus on diversifying the economy and reducing dependence on oil and gas, reducing energy and water consumption and emissions, to achieve carbon neutrality and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

Green energy projects and investments are very popular in the Arabian Gulf region, thanks to many incentives, including competitive prices,

*The 24th WETEX and Dubai Solar Show 2022
will be held from September 27 – 29 at the
Dubai World Trade Centre*



investor confidence, the strategic benefits of entering promising markets, and increased investment in the value chain.

WETEX and DSS are the largest exhibitions of their kind in the region specialising in water, electricity, energy, environment, oil and gas, renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

WETEX has become an important platform for green solutions, and an anticipated forum for institutions and companies from the region and the world to promote their products and services as well as review the latest technologies. The exhibition is a meeting point for experts, specialists and others concerned to exchange best practices and experiences.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, Founder and Chairman of WETEX and DSS, said,

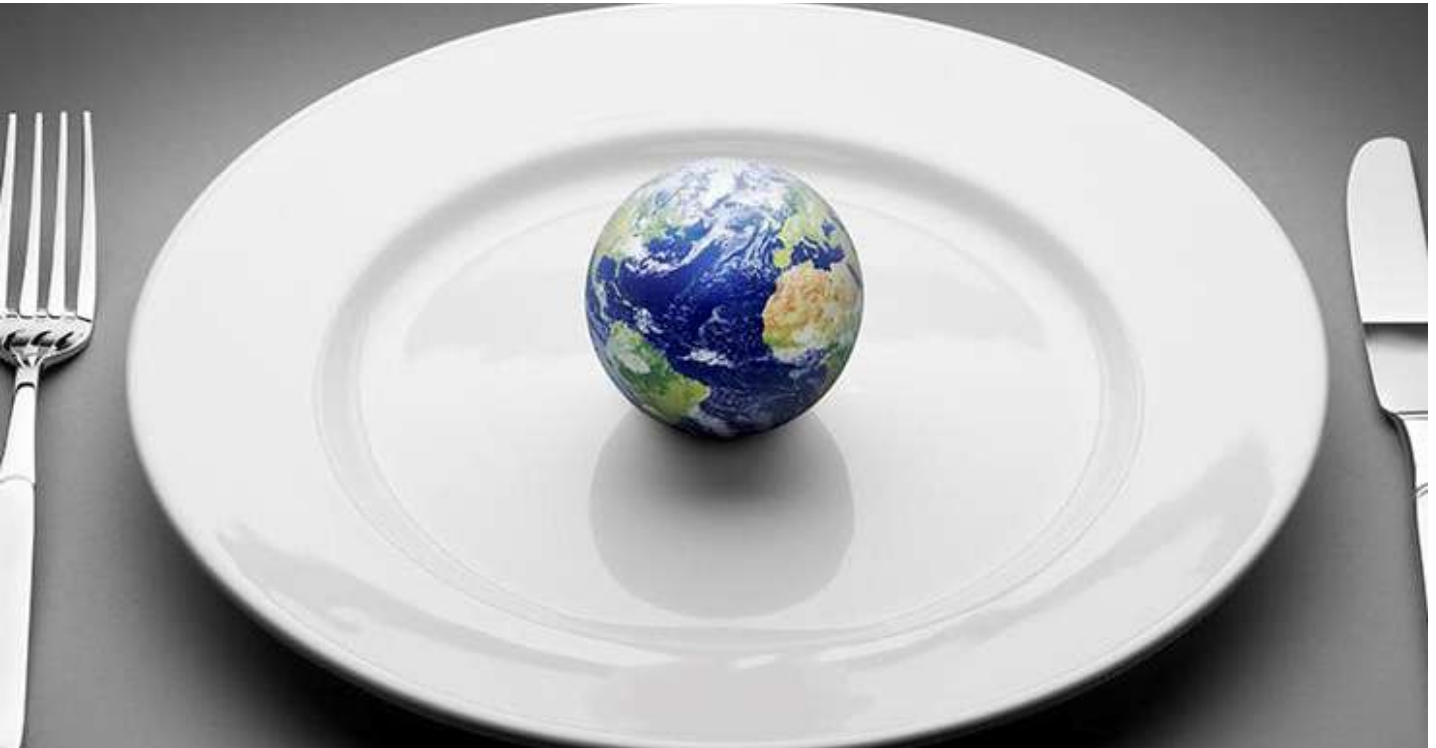
"WETEX and DSS reflect Dubai's keenness and interest in supporting regional and global efforts to increase reliance on renewable energy and promote sustainability and consolidate Dubai's position as a global hub for a green economy."

"This is part of the framework of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of Dubai's total power capacity from clean energy sources by 2050," he added.

Abdullah Al Abdul Karim, Governor of Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC), said that WETEX and Dubai Solar Show provide valuable opportunities to enhance regional and global efforts is facilitating huge economic opportunities in the fields of clean energy and adopt its innovative technologies.

The workshop convened 120 stakeholders from the full spectrum of the F&B industry, including manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and distributors, in addition to members of the UAE Circular Economy Council and representatives of relevant federal and local government entities, research institutions, and academia.

MoCCAE workshop aimed at developing a shared understanding of the circular economy concept in relation to the F&B industry



Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, said, "Circular economy is gaining momentum as the world recognises that the current linear economy, where products are made, used, and discarded, is inefficient and unsustainable. Its economic, environmental, and social benefits are clear – from optimising resource use and reducing or even eliminating waste and pollution to enhancing business sustainability, creating new jobs, and improving public health."

During the workshop, Saleh Lootah, Chairman of FBMG, launched the UAE Agritech Report 2021, which identifies local drivers of the agritech revolution that leverages the latest technologies to make farming more sustainable.

The Secretary General of FBMG, spoke about the Circular Economy Training Program for School

Students, developed by the Group in collaboration with Lootah Biofuels. The initiative aims to educate young people about circular economy and sustainability and motivate them to put the lessons learnt into practice in their daily lives.

The second segment of the day featured a panel discussion under the theme 'How circular economy can make local companies more competitive,' which brought together representatives of the government, local and multinational food manufacturers, and retailers to explore challenges facing F&B companies in the UAE and ways of tackling them.

The discussion provided attendees with practical information about applying the principles of circular economy to the F&B sector and highlighted actions to support the transition towards more circular food systems.

Giraffes And Parrots Among One Million Species Facing Extinction

Around one million species are facing extinction, according to a report from Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), supported by the UN.

Giraffes, parrots, and even oak trees are included in the list of threatened species, as well as cacti and seaweed.



Some of the planet's most stunning creatures are at risk from global warming and other human-induced environmental change, warns UN

Seaweed is one of the planet's great survivors, and relatives of some modern-day seaweed can be traced back some 1.6 billion years. Seaweed plays a vital role in marine ecosystems, providing habitats and food for marine lifeforms, while large varieties – such as kelp – act as underwater nurseries for fish. However, mechanical dredging, rising sea temperatures and the building of coastal infrastructure are contributing to the decline of the species.

The world's trees are threatened by various sources, including logging, deforestation for industry and agriculture, firewood for heating and cooking, and climate-related threats such as wildfires.

It has been estimated that 31 per cent of the world's 430 types of oak are threatened with extinction, according to the International Union

It is estimated there are only around 600 West African giraffes left in the wild



for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species. And 41 per cent are of "conservation concern", mainly due to deforestation for agriculture and fuel for cooking.

Giraffes are targeted for their meat and suffer from the degradation of their habitat due to unsustainable wood harvesting, and increased demand for agricultural land. The current biodiversity crisis will be exacerbated, with catastrophic results for humanity, unless humans interact with nature in a more sustainable way, according to UN experts.

"The IPBES report makes it abundantly clear that wild species are an indispensable source of food, shelter and income for hundreds of millions around the world," says Susan Gardner, Director of the Ecosystems Division at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report illustrates the importance of indigenous people being able to secure tenure rights over their land, as they have long understood the value of wild species and have learned how to use them sustainably.

Examples of the kinds of transformative changes that are needed to reduce biodiversity loss include equitable distribution of costs and benefits, changes in social values, and effective governance systems.

Currently, governments around the world spend more than USD500 billion every year in ways that harm biodiversity to support industries like fossil fuels, agriculture, and fisheries. Experts say these funds should be repurposed to incentivize regenerative agriculture, sustainable food systems, and nature-positive innovations.

Serious Chemical Pollution in Sudan Gold Mining Areas

The 'Gold Fever' struck many areas in Sudan in the last decade with the discovery of rich gold ore in many states. Studies in the River Nile State revealed that young men are earning money and real gold but are losing their health and even their life due to accumulative poisoning from mercury and cyanides. Gold mining has a direct negative impact on the immediate environment and pollutes underground water and soil in faraway areas. Biodiversity is also seriously affected.

In the 1950s, mercury killed over 150 people in Japan while handicapping more



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

than 1,000 due to the consumption of fish contaminated by mercury. The village of Minamata Bay suffered again in 1987 when 17,000 people were affected by the accumulation of methylmercury which develops in the mud under anaerobic conditions. Accordingly, the UN prepared the Minamata Treaty which has been signed and ratified by almost all countries of the world including Sudan.

In a survey done by the "Zero goldmining waste" campaign, it was found that around 180 tons of gold mining waste are disposed of annually in different water sources. Hence, large dams and reservoirs were constructed to hold polluted water, but these cannot withstand floods and flash floods.

This year, mining companies disposed of large amounts of waste containing mercury. When people discovered that this waste still contained traces of gold, they competed to store large amounts of waste in their houses and farms to be treated later. But the winds blew part of the waste into houses and schools while children played on top of the waste hills that were highly polluted with mercury.

In addition, flash floods washed large amounts of waste into the Nile River, groundwater, and agricultural lands. This poses an unimaginable threat to human health, biodiversity, and the environment.

The government needs to act quickly in line with the goals of the Minamata Convention to save local communities and the environment for the current and future generations.



”التعليم مثل الفانوس الذي
يضيء طريقك في زقاق مظلم“

الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان



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