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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



06

UAE champions climate action, humanitarian support, and peace at 79th UNGA

Nations urged to accelerate efforts to triple renewable energy globally by 2030

'Transformational' climate action plans critical to keep 1.5°C within reach

UAE addresses water security and sustainability concerns at 6th Arab Water Forum

12



20



24



Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home



Contents



06

COVER STORY:

UAE concludes active participation in the 79th UNGA, with a focus on climate change, humanitarian efforts, and global peace



12

SUMMIT:

Global Renewables Summit calls for collective efforts to triple renewable energy globally by 2030



20

COP28: COP28 President calls for 'transformational' climate action plans to keep °1.5C within reach

24

FORUM:

UAE reiterates commitment to water security and sustainability at 6th Arab Water Forum



28

AGRI-TECH: 7th Sharjah Investment Forum discusses agri-tech's transformative power in boosting UAE's food security

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30

AVIATION: Aviation Future Week to focus on emerging technologies profoundly impacting the aviation industry

36

CONSERVATION: 10 flamingos have been successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild in Abu Dhabi



40

FOOD SECURITY: 36th Ministerial Meeting of the Agricultural and Food Security Committee of the GCC calls for strengthening agricultural and food sectors

44

LAUNCH: Abu Dhabi's innovative sea cage aquaculture project to relieve pressure on wild fisheries resources, boost seafood supply

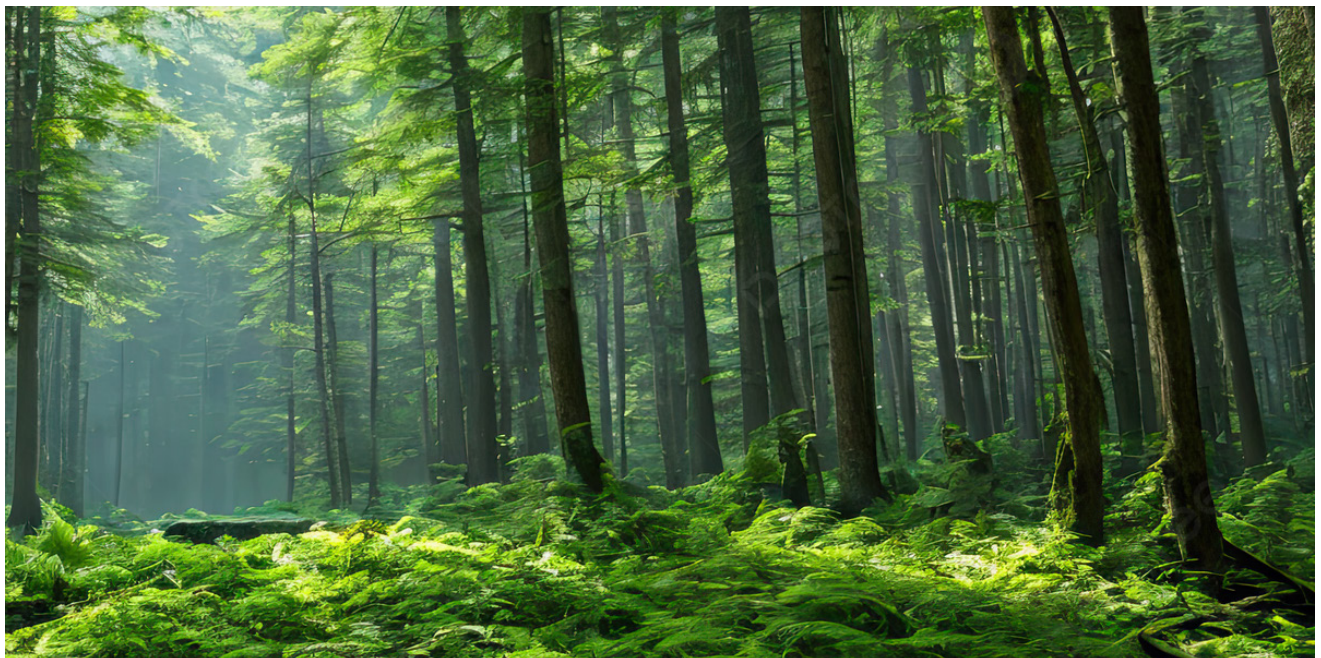


50

CLIMATE FINANCE: IRENA and Azerbaijan COP29 Presidency to hold Energy Transition Investment Forum in Baku

60

HEALTH: WHO issues new global guidance to curb antibiotic pollution from manufacturing





UAE concludes active participation in the 79th UNGA, with a focus on climate change, humanitarian efforts, and global peace

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, led the UAE delegation to the high-level General Debate of UNGA 79

The United Arab Emirates delegation participated in several key high-level meetings during the 79th UN General Assembly (UNGA 79), which concluded at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA, on 30th September.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, led the UAE delegation to the high-level General Debate of UNGA 79. Under his leadership, the delegation hosted several high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings attended by Heads of State and government, and senior officials from international organizations.

The delegation engaged with member states, UN officials, and other partners in discussions on key global challenges, including unhindered humanitarian access, addressing climate change, promoting global health and well-being, and resolving conflicts peacefully.

At the event, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed

underscored the importance of the multilateral system, aligning with the UAE's vision of a more equitable world for all. He noted that the country would continue to engage constructively with partners from member states and support initiatives aimed at finding collective solutions to global challenges.

Sheikh Abdullah further emphasised the pivotal role of international cooperation and concerted efforts to promote peace, security, and prosperity in an increasingly polarised world.

The UAE hosted several high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings attended by Heads of State and government, and senior officials from international organizations



The UAE delegation participated in several high-level meetings about the humanitarian response in Gaza and Sudan, the future of artificial intelligence, bridging the digital divide, climate resilience concerning sea level rise, and other relevant topics.

AI for sustainable development

UAE representatives attended the launch event for the 'Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development (AI4SD)' platform - a UAE-UN Development Programme partnership. The

innovative initiative will leverage the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence and cross-sector collaboration to improve the data available to decision-makers and key officials in the Arab region.

Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications, and Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President and CEO of UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators, participated in the event.

UAE partnership with IRENA

Dr. Amna Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, announced the UAE's significant partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to support 20 countries in the Global South to advance their renewable energy and climate goals.

By raising the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the UAE is supporting efforts to close gaps and triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Summit of the Future

The UAE also participated in the Summit of the Future, a groundbreaking initiative proposed by António Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

The summit seeks to revitalise multilateralism, empowering the global community to collaborate constructively in addressing global challenges such as ending conflicts, alleviating hunger and water scarcity, preventing climate emergencies, and navigating new challenges in the digital sphere and outer space.



In addition, Al Dahak attended the 'Turning Methane Pledges into Action' event, hosted by the International Energy Agency and the COP29 Presidency.

She also attended the events: 'Accelerating Solutions at the Intersection of Climate Change and Food Security' and 'Leveraging ambition for 30x30 and beyond: the road to CBD COP16'.

Al Dahak also participated in a Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships dialogue on 'Delivering Climate Action through National-Subnational Collaboration', along with the Global Renewable Summit 2024 High-Level Plenary on Global Renewables.

Ocean management

At a meeting of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, a group of heads of state advocating for sustainable management of the ocean, the UAE announced it will be the first country in the MENA region to join the panel, having been invited to join based on its climate and biodiversity leadership. HE Razan Al Mubarak, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion from COP28, represented the UAE at the meeting.

HE Amna Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, participated in a Sea Level Rise Thematic Panel on adaptation, finance and



resilience concerning rising sea levels, as well as an event on “Galvanizing Momentum for the Global Plastic Pollution Instrument”.

Commitment to Africa

For his part, Sheikh Shakhboot Al Nahyan, Minister of State, participated in the 6th Summit of the European Corporate Council on Africa and the Middle East (ECAM), as well as side events on ‘Africa’s Natural Resources Shaping the Future’ and the ‘UAE-Africa Trade Corridor’. His participation in these events reflects the UAE’s

commitment to promoting sustainable, long-term prosperity and development in Africa.

High-level meetings

HE Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, along with HE Sultan Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Development Affairs and International Organizations, met with HE Luis Gilberto Murillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, to sign a MoU regarding a donation of a hospital to La Guajira, Colombia, which aims to reduce mortality



due to malnutrition in children under five and mothers. Additionally, HE Al Hashimy participated in an event on “The Cost of Inaction: Urgent and Collective Support to Scale Up the Humanitarian Response in Sudan and the Region”.

HE Dr. Anwar Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the UAE, met with Tim Lenderking, the U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen, and Geir Pedersen, the UN Special Envoy for Syria.

HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State and HE Dr. Maha Barakat, Assistant Minister for Medical Affairs and Life Sciences, joined the Leaders’ Summit of the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats hosted by Joe Biden, President of the United States. As a core member of the Coalition, the UAE reaffirmed its commitment to the Coalition Pledge and global efforts to combat this crisis and announced a new

joint initiative with Canada to expand public health interventions and increase access to life-saving medications. H.E. Al Sayegh also participated in the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting.

HE Khalifa Bin Shaheen Almarar, Minister of State, participated in a joint meeting between the U.S. and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Separately, HE attended the GCC joint meeting with the Benelux countries, in addition to the GCC joint meeting with the Nordic Cooperation. His Excellency also attended the 20th Anniversary of the NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.

HE Lana Nusseibeh, Assistant Minister for Political Affairs and Envoy of the Foreign Minister, engaged in discussions with Hillary Clinton, former US Secretary of State; Barbara

The UAE delegation addressed priority issues of reinforcing global health and prosperity, preventing and resolving conflicts through peaceful means, and tackling the climate crisis



Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; as well as Martin Griffiths, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. She also met with Martin Kimani, Executive Director of the New York University Center on International Cooperation; HE Kevin Rudd, Ambassador of Australia to the U.S.; and David Miliband, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee.

HE Al Shamsi participated in a meeting with senior officials from the Group of 77 and China. His Excellency also met with Feraye Ozfescioglu, CEO of the World Humanitarian Forum.

HE Omran Sharaf, Assistant Minister of Foreign

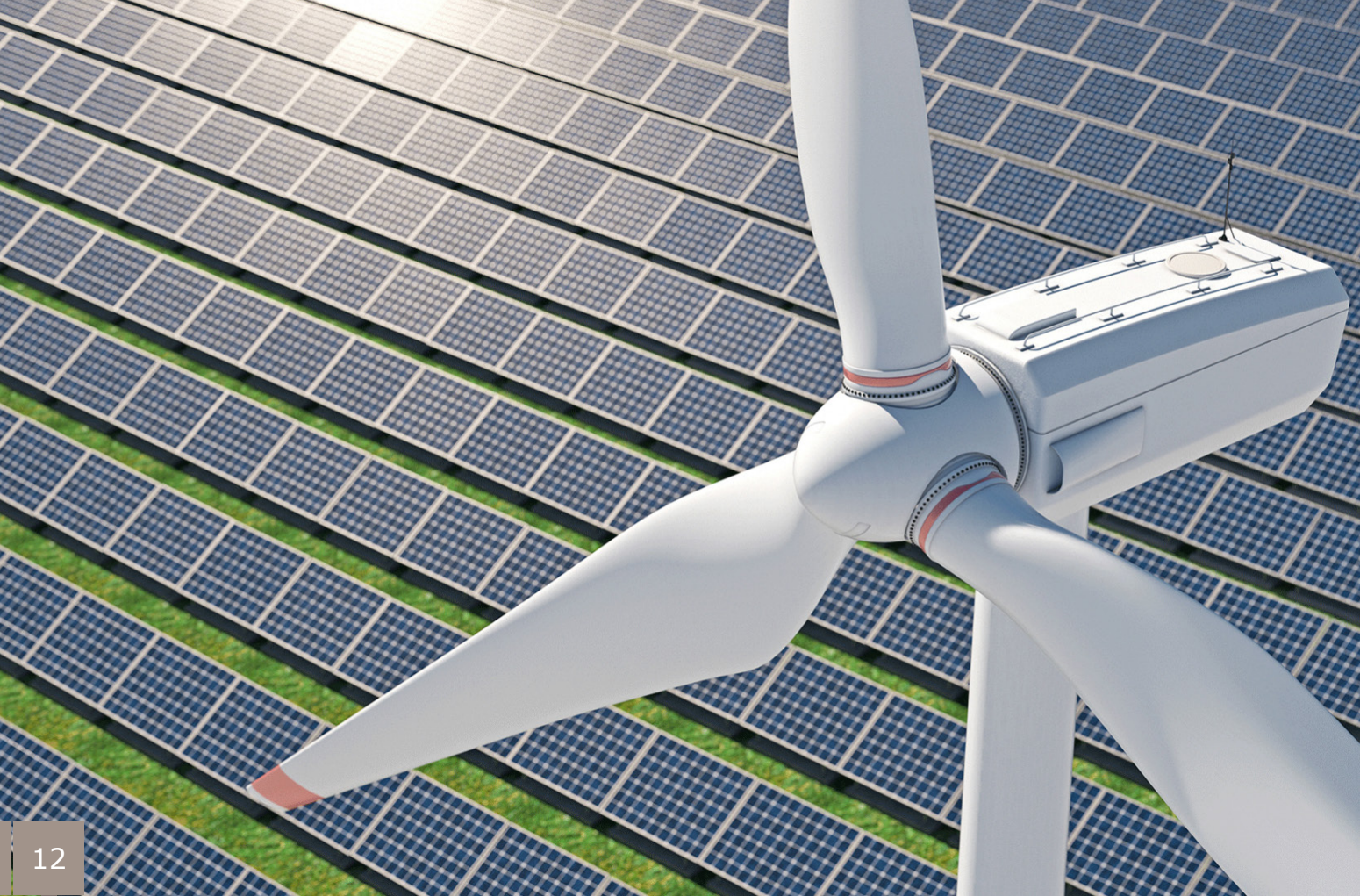
Affairs for Advanced Science and Technology, delivered opening remarks at the Digital for Sustainable Development (D4SD) event. His Excellency also participated in the Paris Peace Forum event “Safeguarding the Physical Backbone of Digital Futures: A Path to Navigate Geo-economic Risks and Security Threats in Transnational Critical Infrastructure Development”.

HE Dr. Barakat participated in a breakfast dialogue on “A Healthier Future through Equitable Immunization”, as well as the Foreign Policy Health Forum.

HE Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, participated in a meeting to discuss the Climate Finance Reform Compass, an initiative aimed at establishing clear, actionable goals for advancing the Global Climate Finance Framework launched at COP28 last year.

Sheikha Shamma Bint Sultan al Nahyan, President and CEO of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators, met with several CEOs and directors from international companies and institutions to enhance cooperation.





‘Tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030 essential to keep 1.5°C alive’

The Global Renewables Summit, held from 23-25 September, discussed the progress, opportunities, and challenges of tripling renewable energy globally by 2030

Global investment in renewable energy must more than triple over the next six years to meet the 11,000GW capacity target needed to keep 1.5°C within reach, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said on September 24 at the Global Renewables Summit, the first-ever high-level public-private-summit focused on the goal of tripling renewable energy globally by 2030.

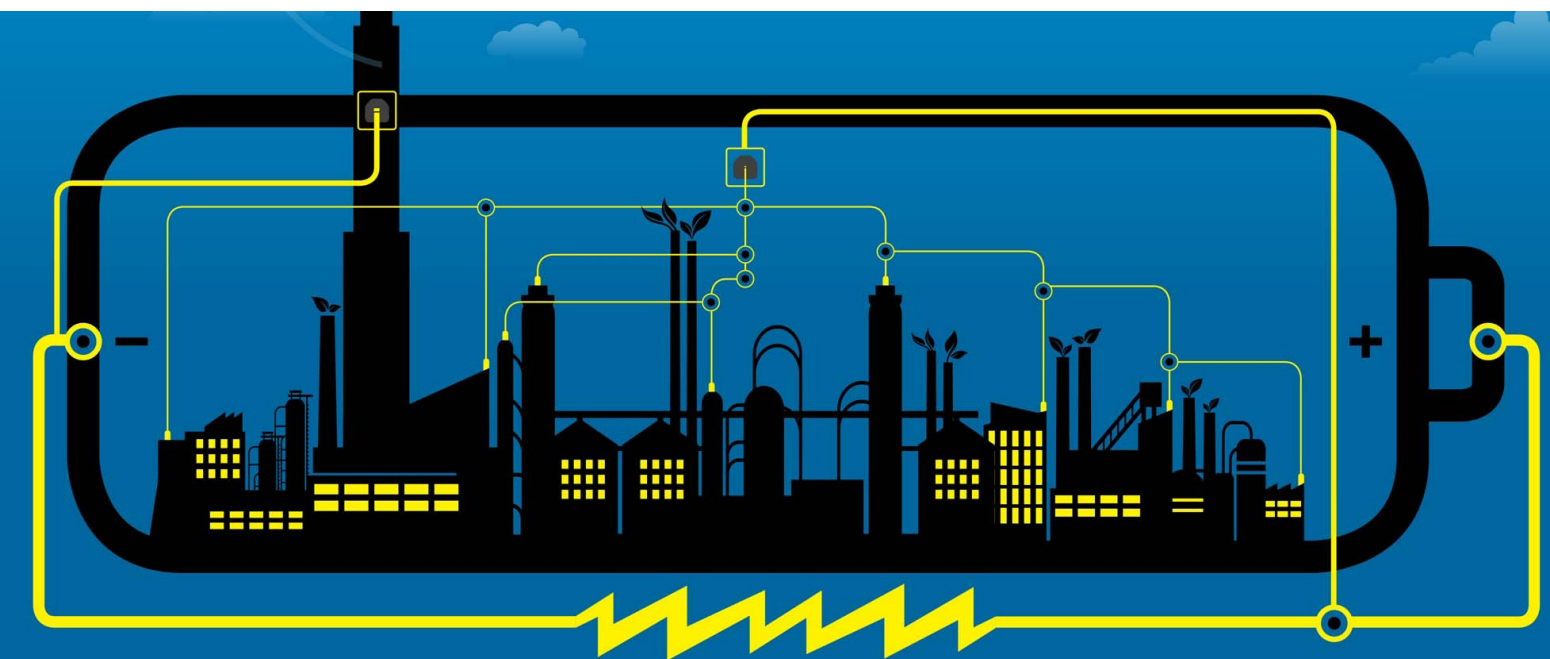
“Tripling renewable capacity is not just a benchmark, it is an essential enabler of all global efforts to keep 1.5 within reach, advance sustainable prosperity, and leave no one behind,” Dr. Al Jaber said at the summit, held on the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York.

Tripling global renewable energy capacity was one of the key outcomes of the historic UAE Consensus, the defining point of reference for global climate ambition and sustainable development. Renewable energy has seen “historic expansion” globally in the past 20 years,

with capacity increasing eightfold and costs falling more than 80 percent, the COP28 President said, noting that solar power is now cheaper than any other energy source. However, while “trends are moving in the right direction, they just aren’t moving fast enough,” he said.

“We urgently need to shift gears in three key areas,” Dr. Al Jaber said, calling for greater investment in infrastructure, technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), and in the Global South. “We need to more than triple overall

Investment needs to increase in three key areas: infrastructure, technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in the Global South



investment over the next six years to meet our 2030 target of 11,000GW.”

While private-sector investment is critical, “investors need to know that their projects will have a viable grid to plug into, in a viable timeline,” the President said, pointing out that grid infrastructures in industrialized countries are often over 60 years old, while in many Global South nations “there are no grids at all.”

Governments “must step up” and include specific

renewable energy and infrastructure targets in their upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the President said. They should also implement policies that incentivize private-sector investment, and streamline permitting. “In too many places, the pace of permitting is like driving with the handbrake on, when we need to be accelerating down the highway,” he noted.

Technology, particularly AI, could help unlock the key challenges facing renewable energy of



intermittency and storage by making grids smarter, enabling them to better map out usage, while predictive maintenance could extend battery life, strengthen transmission infrastructure and strengthen storage capacity, he told delegates. AI could also help integrate baseload and renewable energy sources to maximize carbon efficiency and boost energy security, he said.

“The faster we invest in and apply AI to the energy sector, the faster its benefits can be scaled,” Dr. Al Jaber said, highlighting that the UAE is hosting a special forum with tech and energy leaders this November in Abu Dhabi. “These two sectors are simply interdependent,” he said.

“The opportunity for sustainable economic prosperity through smarter, greener growth has never been greater but some parts of the world are not seeing a fair share of this opportunity,” the President said, pointing out that over 120 developing countries currently attract less than 15 percent of global renewable energy investment.

“When it comes to climate finance, old models must be challenged and new models championed,” he told delegates, calling on international financial institutions to make finance more

available, accessible and affordable, and for private finance to be incentivized through “innovative” blended models.

Dr. Al Jaber cited the example of ALTÉRRRA, the climate investment fund launched at COP28, which has already deployed US\$6.5 billion with investors in projects with a combined portfolio of 40GW.

“There is much more to do to fill the power development gap in the Global South,” the President said. “And I would encourage all parties to explore all solutions in collaboration with like-minded partners.”

Declaring that “business as usual simply will not work,” Dr. Al Jaber called for a “new model of engagement that drives public and private partnership to a new level,” along with a “true spirit of solidarity” and a “renewed sense of positivity that views spending on renewables as an investment that will bring significant returns.”

The Global Renewables Summit was held from 23-25 September, bringing together leaders from industry, government, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and philanthropy to discuss the progress, opportunities, and challenges of tripling renewable energy globally by 2030.



UAE to host first global conference on mangrove restoration

UAE NEWS

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) will organise the first edition of the International Mangroves Conservation and Restoration Conference (IMCRC), from 10th to 12th December 2024. This conference, the first of its kind in the world, aims to present the most important scientific studies in the field of mangrove forest ecosystems, and the best practices for the rehabilitation and development of these environmental habitats.

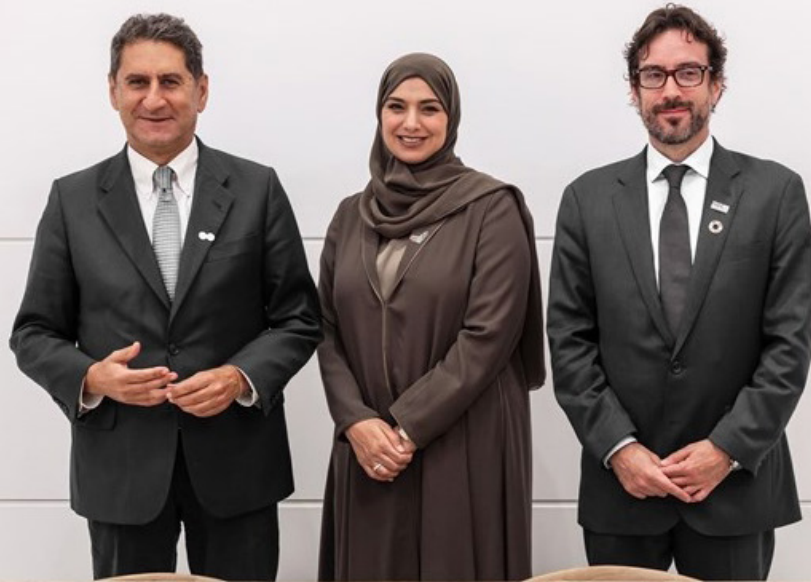
The main themes of the conference include promoting the adoption of an integrated approach to restoring coastal systems and shedding light on the conservation of mangroves in the Arabian Peninsula. Additional agenda topics include a review of possible ways to address the effects of climate change through the preservation and rehabilitation of mangroves.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary-General of EAD, said, “Abu Dhabi’s mangrove restoration efforts date back to before the 1970s, making the emirate a pioneer in the rehabilitation of

these valuable ecosystems. The total coverage of Abu Dhabi’s mangrove restoration projects across the emirate is currently 17,600 hectares. And since 2020, EAD and its partners have planted more than 27 million mangroves using innovative solutions, such as drone seeding.”

She added, “By convening global scientists and conservation and restoration professionals working in the public and private sectors on mangrove and other coastal ecosystem programmes, all stakeholders will be able to exchange knowledge on applied science and best practices and share their own experiences.”

The IMCRC will be hosted under the umbrella of the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative (ADMI), the overarching programme for all mangrove restoration initiatives in Abu Dhabi. Its goals include implementing science-based restoration, prioritising protection efforts and fostering innovation and collaboration for mangrove and blue carbon ecosystems locally and globally.



UAE, IRENA partner to help developing nations raise and achieve NDC ambitions

Announced during the 79th United Nations General Assembly, the initiative seeks to elevate the climate ambitions of these nations and drive urgent action on sustainability

The UAE and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) have announced a strategic partnership to support 20 developing nations in strengthening their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), under the NDC Partnership, to raise climate ambitions and drive urgent action.

Announced on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York during a joint UAE-IRENA event, the partnership seeks to leverage the UAE's climate and renewable energy leadership and build on IRENA's pivotal role in supporting NDC development under the NDC Partnership while charting the sustainable energy future.

Renewable and clean energy solutions will play a critical role in helping countries achieve and raise the ambitions of their NDCs. The first Global Stocktake at COP28, resulted in the UAE Consensus and provides a roadmap to drive a just energy transition and achieve the Paris Agreement goals through the tripling of

renewable power capacity by 2030.

The UAE-IRENA will prioritize and address the specific challenges of developing economies, such as limited technical capacities and access to financial support to develop and achieve more ambitious national climate and energy plans, as the world seeks to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

The partnership will provide the 20 developing

The partnership leverages the UAE's leadership in renewable energy and IRENA's expertise in NDC development



economies with the support to develop more detailed and quantifiable renewable energy targets across all sectors, aligning national energy plans with their NDCs.

Dr. Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, highlighted the UAE's commitment to supporting climate frontline communities, saying: "Bridging the gaps between current NDC ambitions and the targets we need to achieve before the end of the decade is a critical challenge of the climate crisis, and one that we must work together to fix, and swiftly.

"The UAE is proud to collaborate with IRENA and

help empower developing countries to accelerate their energy transitions by enhancing the effectiveness of their NDCs. This partnership marks a promising step towards ensuring that nations can raise and meet their climate targets, and contribute to global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Dr. Amna Al Shamsi added: "As a global renewable energy pioneer, the UAE is committed to advancing global climate action and the energy transition. This partnership with IRENA under the NDC Partnership is part of the UAE's broader efforts to support the tripling of renewable energy capacity by 2030, as outlined in the UAE



Consensus following COP28 UAE.”

Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA, emphasised the significance of this partnership: “Renewables are widely recognised as the fastest, cleanest and most cost-effective and secure way to cut carbon emissions within the limited time we have. We commend the UAE for its continued energy transition leadership, and we are excited to join forces in a strategic partnership to empower the most vulnerable countries around the world.”

La Camera added: “Supporting developing countries on NDCs is fundamental to provide long-term policy certainty, attract investment and encourage private sector engagement in support of a just transition that brings socioeconomic opportunities to people and communities.

Though nearly every nation has ratified the Paris Agreement and submitted NDCs, the original pledges would only have limited global temperature rise to 2.8°C by the end of the century. New and updated NDCs, combined with net zero commitments, are projected to reduce

emissions by 20% by 2030, potentially limiting warming to 2.1°C according to the latest NDC synthesis report by the UNFCCC—still above the 1.5°C goal.

Renewable energy is essential to bridging this gap. IRENA’s World Energy Transitions Outlook projected the need to triple installed renewable power capacity to over 11 TW globally by 2030 to stay on a 1.5°C aligned pathway.

However, current renewable energy targets in NDCs fall short. As of October 2023, 184 parties had included renewable energy components in their NDCs, but only 148 had set quantifiable targets, most of which focus on the power sector. With the third submission of NDCs due by COP30 in 2025, more specific and time-bound targets are urgently needed in key areas such as heating, cooling, and transport.

The UAE-IRENA partnership announcement was followed by a signing ceremony and a networking session, where diplomats and stakeholders shared insights on the importance of collaboration in meeting global climate targets.



UAE delegation takes part in 68th IAEA General Conference

UAE NEWS

The UAE participated in the annual week-long 68th Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, held from September 16-24 under the theme “Global Cooperation in the Nuclear Field”.

Ambassador Hamad Al Kaabi, the UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, led the UAE delegation that includes national stakeholders in the nuclear sector such as the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR), and Emirates Nuclear Energy Cooperation (ENEC).

Delivering the UAE Statement, Ambassador Al Kaabi shed light on the robust relationship between the UAE and the IAEA. The five-decade-old partnership helped achieve the UAE's energy needs in terms of building and operating a peaceful nuclear programme that adheres to the highest standards in nuclear safety, security, and non-proliferation.

The UAE delegation also held several bilateral

meetings with international stakeholders to discuss cooperation opportunities. FANR signed an MoU with the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority to cooperate and exchange information on nuclear regulatory matters as well as provide training opportunities for its personnel.

At the Senior Safety and Security Regulators' Meeting, the UAE shared its journey of developing a robust regulatory infrastructure for its peaceful nuclear energy programme from legislation to inspection and licensing regimes.

The UAE also took part in a side event titled: “The International Commission on Radiological Protection: Time for Action!”, where FANR presented its efforts to strengthen the radiation protection infrastructure in the UAE. FANR continuously monitors the radioactivity levels in the UAE environment through its environmental laboratory and through its radioactivity monitoring stations positioned in various locations across the UAE.

COP28 President calls for 'transformational' climate action plans to keep 1.5°C within reach

Nationally Determined Contributions should be seen not as a “burden” but as platforms for new streams of growth, green jobs, and a clean future, said Dr. Sultan Jaber at a high-level COP Presidencies Troika event

Highlighting that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) should be seen as an opportunity to deliver socioeconomic growth, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber called on Parties to issue a third round of NDCs that “meet the urgency of the moment” and represent a “comprehensive response plan” to the UAE Consensus.

Parties should view their NDCs “not as a burden but as platforms for new streams of growth, green jobs and a clean future,” the COP28 President said at a high-level COP Presidencies Troika event, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

“The UAE Consensus gave us a blueprint for transformation: we must now act on it,” Dr. Al Jaber said at the COP Presidencies Troika’s ‘Roadmap to Mission 1.5: NDC 3.0’ event. The Troika, an unprecedented collaboration between the COP presidencies of the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil, is primarily focused on stimulating the “highest level of ambition” in the next round of NDCs, he said.

While Parties must submit their next round of NDCs by February 2025, submitting them earlier would help build momentum, Dr. Al Jaber said, announcing that the UAE will submit its third NDC ahead of COP29, due to be held in Azerbaijan from 11-22 November.

“Let me take this opportunity to call on all Parties to be early movers and to provide concrete signals on their NDCs by or before COP29 to build momentum during this critical decade of action,” the COP28 President said. “Let’s deliver

food, health and early warning systems. And it will back all efforts with a robust legal framework that holds every sector accountable to specific, timebound goals.”

In a call to all Parties, Dr. Al Jaber said that if the next round of NDCs is done right, they can “leverage” the three global megatrends of the energy transition, the rise of AI and the expansion of emerging markets and the Global South.

Dr. Al Jaber said that the UAE has been a leader in



transformational NDCs backed by serious investment and let’s drive a new era of sustainable socioeconomic growth that keeps 1.5°C within reach, advances prosperity and leaves no one behind.”

The UAE’s NDC will “cover all greenhouse gases and every sector of the economy, including energy, industry, transportation and waste,” he said. “It will leverage the latest technologies, including AI, to drive decarbonization and enhance adaptive resilience by transforming

diversifying its energy mix, having more than doubled its renewable energy capacity since 2019 and is on track to more than triple it by 2030.

Dr. Al Jaber also highlighted the progress made by the Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC) since COP28, which now has 54 members, covering 43 percent of global oil production.

For nations looking to incentivize industry sectors in their NDCs, the OGDC demonstrates how “inclusive engagement” can lead to “meaningful results,” he said.

NDCs represent an opportunity to leverage the three megatrends of the energy transition, the rise of AI and the expansion of emerging markets and the Global South



The COP28 President emphasized the importance of finding consensus on a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on finance at COP29 to ensure that finance goes to where it is needed the most.

Financing is a critical enabler to delivering ambitious 1.5°C-aligned NDCs and to ensuring that adequate climate finance is available for adaptation and mitigation.

Dr. Al Jaber cited the Africa Green Investment Initiative, which is investing USD 4.5 billion in renewable energy projects, across Africa, and ALTERRA, the climate investment fund launched at COP28, which has already deployed USD 6.5 billion with investors, as models “that can and should be replicated by countries worldwide to enable green industrialization and clean growth at scale and pace.”

As part of the Troika’s mission to raise ambition for the next round of NDCs, the COP Presidencies Troika launched an Action and Ambition Majlis series, bringing countries together at events like the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Germany and the Ministerial on Climate Action in Wuhan, China.

In its latest Letter to Parties, the COP Presidencies Troika called upon Parties to step forward with greater ambition in the next generation of NDCs as the implementation vehicle for universally adopted climate commitments.

The ambition of keeping 1.5°C and global resilience within reach will be determined by Parties’ and other stakeholders’ resolve to act at this critical moment and ensure the right enabling conditions are in place for implementation.



UAQ prepares to launch scenic eco-trail in early 2025

UAE NEWS

The Umm Al Quwain Department of Tourism and Archaeology has announced plans for its first eco-trail, set to open in early 2025 within the emirate's pristine Umm Al Quwain Mangrove Reserve.

This initiative provides a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to connect with nature, offering an immersive experience that raises awareness about the coastal lagoon's rich biodiversity and ecological value. The eco-trail will be developed in partnership with Emirates Nature-WWF.

Informative signage will engage visitors of all ages, offering individuals and families an educational overview of the lagoon's unique ecosystems, coastal dunes, and biodiversity. As people walk along the eco-trail, they will learn about fascinating species such as geckos that glow in the dark, green turtles weighing over 100kg, rays resembling guitars, and more.

Haytham Sultan Al Ali, Director-General of the

Department of Tourism and Archaeology of Umm Al Quwain, said, "The sustainably designed trail will feature a 250-metre wooden boardwalk and a 1.8-kilometre guided dune-based path. It will include a shaded area and an observatory majlis, illuminated by energy-efficient solar red lights to reduce light pollution."

Laila Mostafa Abdullatif, Director-General of Emirates Nature-WWF, said, "Healthy and diverse coastal ecosystems are essential for sustainable tourism. Our assessment of natural capital in the Umm Al Quwain lagoon reveals that combining conservation and ecotourism is key to maximising ecosystem services. Conservation can boost tourism and recreation benefits by up to 50 percent, including increased footfall and visitor spending."

The Umm Al Quwain lagoon plays a central role in achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth and supporting the expansion of the nature-rich emirate.



UAE reiterates commitment to water security, sustainability at 6th Arab Water Forum

The three-day event provided a platform for industry leaders to fast-track collaborative efforts to meet water security goals and identify the most promising innovation and growth opportunities

Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), highlighted that the 6th Arab Water Forum, held in Abu Dhabi from September 16-18, has underscored the importance of the life-sustaining resource.

He reiterated the UAE's steadfast commitment to raising awareness of water conservation and to achieving water security and sustainability.

Al Olama noted that the UAE has gone a long way in conserving water resources through pioneering projects, such as water desalination plants and networks, and that the UAE is keen on collaborating with its international partners to improve water security worldwide.

He said, "In the UAE, water is one of the most important national priority issues, given our geographical location in an arid area, the scarcity of our natural water resources, and the high demand for water for development purposes. We work diligently to increase reliance on non-

conventional water resources to produce fresh water for drinking and other purposes. Non-conventional water resources contribute 53% of our water supply. This includes desalinated seawater and treated wastewater."

He noted that the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 aims to ensure sustainable water access, and the goal is to reduce the total demand for water resources by 21%, reduce the water scarcity index by three degrees, and increase the reuse of treated water to 95%.

As water scarcity becomes an increasingly urgent global issue, this landmark event serves as a critical platform for collaboration and innovation, aligning the region's water agenda with global sustainability goals



Headed, "We announced the first hydrogeological map and geo-database of the UAE, a milestone achievement in documenting and managing water sources to sustain and conserve water. We also launched the National Energy and Water Demand Management Programme 2050 to rationalise water consumption and improve the environmental performance and efficiency of energy and water plants.

"In the UAE, we believe that innovation and international collaboration are key to sustainable

water management. The UAE has adopted strategies and initiatives to improve water resources management, support strategic water reserves, and increase the area and efficiency of rainwater harvesting to enhance natural groundwater resources.

"The UAE is adopting advanced technical solutions to utilise wastewater to irrigate crops – a solution that contributes to cutting down environmental pollution and reducing the depletion of natural water resources."



Speaking of the UAE's efforts to provide irrigation water, Al Olama said, "The UAE mostly relies on wastewater treatment plants to meet its irrigation needs. There are over 140 wastewater treatment plants in addition to those run by the private sector. They have a total capacity of 3 million cubic metres a day and produce 768 million cubic metres of treated wastewater a year that is used to irrigate landscapes in our cities."

A United Nations report indicated that the UAE has achieved an average of 100% in providing safe drinking water and sanitation services and 79% in integrated water resources management, one of the region's best results. The UAE seeks to improve this result in the coming years by ensuring alignment and integration between the country's water, energy, environment, and food strategies.

EGA implements digital greenhouse gas emissions tracking system

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) has implemented a digital greenhouse gas emissions tracking system to enhance transparency and accelerate decarbonisation, becoming the first company in the UAE to adopt such a digital tracking system.

The Greenhouse Gas Measurement, Reporting, and Verification system is a centralised digital platform for Scope 1 and 2 emissions data. The platform enables EGA to automate emissions tracking, documentation, and validation by independent third-party auditors. The data is reported using standardised dashboards to relevant stakeholders.



New how-to guide speeds global race for renewable energy

UAE NEWS

Governments, industry and other key players can now deploy a new action-oriented toolkit to ensure the global energy transition unfolds with equity, justice and sustainability as demand for minerals for renewables is poised to almost triple by 2030, according to a report by a diverse expert panel.

Many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies, from wind turbines and solar panels to electric vehicles and battery storage, depend on such critical energy transition minerals as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements. The report identifies ways to ground the renewables revolution in justice and equity so that it spurs sustainable development, respects people, protects the environment and powers prosperity in resource-rich developing countries.

Seven guiding principles for direct action and five recommendations to help put them into practice and address key gaps in international governance are outlined in the 35-page 'Resourcing the

Energy Transition' report. Fairness, transparency, investment, sustainability and human rights drive the panel's recommendations, centred on where minerals are mined and the entire value chain, from refining and manufacturing to transport and end-of-use recycling.

The panel recommended establishing a set of key tools, from an initiative empowering artisanal and small-scale miners in becoming agents of transformation in fostering development, environmental stewardship and human rights to a global mining legacy fund to build trust and address related issues as a result of derelict, ownerless or abandoned mines and strengthen financial assurance mechanisms for mine closure and rehabilitation.

It recommended building a global traceability, transparency and accountability framework along the entire mineral value chain as well as a high-level advisory group to accelerate greater benefit-sharing and economic diversification.

SIF 2024 discusses agri-tech's transformative power in boosting UAE's food security

The 7th Sharjah Investment Forum (SIF), organised by the Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah), was held under the theme, 'Future Visions for Smart Economies'

Experts at the 7th Sharjah Investment Forum (SIF 2024), held from 18th-19th September, discussed the importance of smart solutions and their role in ensuring food security, highlighting how innovative agricultural technologies can transform production and reduce dependency on imports.

During a session titled 'Enhancing Food Security Through Smart Solutions', panelists including Dr. Khalifa Alteneiji, Chairman of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in Sharjah; Sara Al Nuaimi, CEO of the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa); Hamed Al Hamed, Founder and CEO of Gracia Group, and Ahmed Hammoud, UAE General Manager of Alesca Technologies, an agritech company, focused on vertical farms and precision agriculture solutions.

Dr. Alteneiji shared Sharjah's success in wheat production as an example of how smart solutions can enhance food security. He noted, "We were



once heavily reliant on imports, but today, thanks to advanced technology, we have surpassed global standards by producing wheat locally. Our wheat is heat-resistant, high-yield, high in protein, and consumes less water — proving that sustainable solutions can thrive even in challenging climates.”

He also cited Brazil’s success in achieving 80 percent self-sufficiency in wheat production in 2022-23, emphasising that similar efforts in the UAE are crucial for overcoming environmental challenges and securing long-term food security.

Sara Al Nuaimi, CEO of Sheraa, highlighted the role of entrepreneurship in advancing smart solutions for food security and emphasised Sheraa’s commitment to attracting international agritech companies to the UAE, providing opportunities to relocate and scale their solutions within the region. Al Nuaimi expressed optimism about the future, referring to the National Strategy for Food Security, which aims to make the UAE the world’s best in the Global Food Security Index by 2051, with a key objective of 50 percent local production.

Hamed Al Hamed of Gracia Group discussed the company’s homegrown solutions for addressing the region’s agricultural challenges. “To find solutions for water scarcity and difficult farming conditions, we have developed integrated systems that cater to the UAE’s unique environment, from advanced irrigation techniques to sustainable crop management.”

He also stressed the importance of creating local solutions tailored to the UAE’s needs. He said: “We can either import technology or create our own, adapting it to suit local needs and environment. That is what we are doing to ensure food security from within.”

Ahmed Hammoud of Alesca Technologies discussed the potential of vertical farming in

Experts discussed the importance of smart solutions and their role in ensuring food security, highlighting that innovative agricultural technologies can transform production and reduce dependency on imports



reshaping sustainable agriculture. He explained, “Since 2013, we have been working on perfecting vertical farming solutions that can be integrated into urban settings, reducing the carbon footprint and providing fresh produce directly to residents.”

Hammoud highlighted the efficiency of smart technologies in reducing costs and enhancing profitability. “Our farms, located in places like Sharjah Sustainable City, are fully automated and can be managed remotely. This allows fresh fruits and vegetables to be grown in the heart of urban communities, redefining farm-to-table with minimal environmental impact.”

Emirates, Museum of the Future unveil Aviation Future Week agenda

The Aviation Future Week is a groundbreaking event that focuses on emerging technologies profoundly impacting the aviation industry

Dubai is set to witness the first-ever Aviation Future Week on 15-17 October 2024, a collaborative effort between Emirates and the Museum of the Future. The event promises to highlight growth opportunities for businesses in Dubai's aviation and aerospace sectors.

Emirates and the Museum of the Future have unveiled the curated agenda and speakers set to take the stage at Aviation Future Week.

Adel Al Redha, Deputy President and Chief Operations Officer at Emirates Airline, said, "We have an incredible line-up of over 30 speakers and experts from across aviation and aerospace, airfreight and logistics, Maintenance, Overhaul and Repair (MRO), as well as key figures from the tech industry and academia. This reflects the broad range of topics that Aviation Future Week will cover. Participants can look forward to an agenda filled with insightful discussions, informative panel sessions, and interactive



workshops, delving into topics critical to the future of our industry."

Khalfan Belhoul, CEO of Dubai Future Foundation, added, "Aviation Future Week is a pivotal platform to highlight the latest advancements and opportunities within the aviation sector."

He continued, "Both Emirates and the Museum of the Future aim to host global discussions that shape the future of this critical industry. This event supports the integration of advanced technologies to enhance service efficiency and develop growth strategies for the aviation sector, both in the short and long term."

The first day of Aviation Future Week will spotlight the passenger journey and address operational challenges amidst strong global demand. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, will headline the opening, followed by a keynote from Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade. Abdel Wahab Teffaha, Secretary-General of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO), will discuss balancing traffic demand with innovative passenger solutions and enhanced on-ground experiences.

The first panel will focus on optimising traffic demand in an environment of saturated airports and constrained supply chains. Ghaith Al Ghaith, CEO of flydubai; Adel Al Ali, CEO of Air Arabia; and Wouter Van Wersch, Executive Vice President of Airbus International, will kick off an insightful dialogue around their long-term vision for air traffic capacity.

Werner Vogels, Amazon's Chief Technology Officer, will participate in a fireside chat to discuss the company's approach to automation, biometrics, and real-time data, aimed at creating seamless passenger journeys.

Airport leaders including Khalifa Al Zaffin, Executive Chairman of Dubai Aviation City

From AI-driven tools to optimised air traffic management and cutting-edge logistics solutions, participants will experience first-hand interactive workshops and networking sessions



Corporation; Ayman AboAbah, CEO of Riyadh Airports; Server Aydın, Chief Digital Services and Commercial Officer at iGA Istanbul Airport; Omar Binadai, Chief Technology and Infrastructure Officer at Dubai International; and Nicolas Vandable, Head of Airline Relations, Projects and Development, Director of Smart Airport Programmes at Paris-CDG Airport, will tackle the topic of airport infrastructure modernisation and the future technologies promising a frictionless on-ground experience.

New UAE partnership aims to advance sustainable management of environmental resources

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) have signed an MoU to enhance sustainable environmental development and protection in the UAE

In line with the UAE's Year of Sustainability, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) have signed a new agreement to ensure the best use of Abu Dhabi's natural resources.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) will foster effective cooperation on groundwater, soil, and biodiversity projects to protect the natural environment and support the emirate's sustainable development.

The partnership was signed in the presence of Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director of EAD and Chairperson of ICBA, by Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, the Secretary General of EAD, and Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, in the presence of both entities' executive management teams.

This signing ceremony came after Dr. Shaikha Al



Dhaheiri toured the ICBA headquarters to view the latest agricultural innovations and technologies, and to learn about the centre's initiatives and projects in modern biosaline agriculture.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak said, "For over two decades, our collective endeavours have significantly advanced sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. This new MoU reinforces our shared commitment to tackling critical challenges such as water scarcity, soil degradation, and biodiversity loss. I am confident that our ongoing collaboration will yield meaningful advancements in environmental sustainability."

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri said, "I was pleased to learn about the achievements made by the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture in developing saline agriculture, increasing crop productivity, and overcoming agricultural challenges in terms of soil quality and water availability. Through this partnership, we have an extensive list of projects we will be launching.

"Whether we are working on nature resource management, agricultural and habitat rehabilitation, soil protection or species conservation, as well as conducting research and instigating educational awareness programmes, our joint goal is to ensure that future generations have ample resources and environmental continuity to help them lead healthy lives."

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi said, "The strategic partnership of more than 20 years between EAD and ICBA has advanced the missions of both organisations and has been behind several natural resource conservation initiatives in Abu Dhabi. This new MoU will allow us to do much more together and further support Abu Dhabi's environmental protection."

The MoU is intended to facilitate the collaboration

of both parties to jointly explore, design and implement specific projects, such as the use of green energy innovations in forestry and green areas. The objective is to reduce the negative impacts associated with traditional energy sources, like fossil fuels, in operating irrigation systems. The agreement also aims to monitor rangelands and rehabilitate sites to enhance biomass for livestock and wildlife.



Both signatories will also share data, enabling them to leverage ICBA's available maps and data and integrate them into EAD's proprietary information for enhanced analysis. The wide-ranging cooperation also includes seed sharing and exchange, with a focus on native plants from Abu Dhabi and other areas of the UAE, promoting diversity through exchange programmes.

Similarly, EAD and ICBA will research drought-resistant species to identify plants that can enhance habitat restoration efforts and will leverage ICBA's research on marginal lands to minimise water resource use, while also building capacity by developing skills in modern irrigation systems, water management, and harvesting programmes.



The entities will adopt advanced technologies and best practices for efficient water use and deploy remote-sensing and drones to monitor habitats and assess environmental quality.

The partnership will develop applied research on reject brine from desalination, conduct an investigation on hydroponics and best practices for managing forage crops to optimise groundwater use, and conduct biochar research on remediating contaminated land and study the substance's effects on the presence of heavy metals in soil.

Furthermore, both parties will study the use of biochar in reducing water requirements and carbon sequestration in soil, and its long-term impact on soil biodiversity, natural vegetation, and wild plant species. Additionally, EAD and ICBA will share expertise and build capacity in

gene sequencing, data analysis, and in understanding the relationship between genetic information and plant characteristics and performance.

The MoU also involves restoration programmes for dryland-adapted varieties of native plant species and collaboration on the integration of UAV technologies into these programmes. To enhance educational awareness, both EAD and ICBA will develop interactive electronic educational resources on topics about land degradation and strategies for its prevention.

They will also partner on planning initiatives, and in research projects, conducting and publishing the project outcomes to support the preservation of a sustainable environment and explore environmental issues of local and regional significance.

Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority operates the first phase of its electric bus rides

Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (SRTA) has announced the operation of the first phase of environmentally friendly electric bus rides.

SRTA launched several routes including 3 destinations between cities to enhance the mass transportation services provided by the authority's bus fleet, towards the gradual shift to relying on carriers that meet SRTA environmental sustainability plans, in line with UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative.

Engineer Youssef Khamis Al Othmani, Chairman of SRTA, revealed that the first phase approved by the Authority to operate 10 electric buses, depends on 3 destinations including the Emirates of Dubai and Ajman and the city of Al Hamriyah. The selection of the three destinations was based on studies and statistics carried out by the relevant departments, according to several criteria, such as in-demand destinations with the highest number of passengers.

Al Othmani stressed the Authority's endeavour to apply the highest quality standards and adopt comprehensive plans to achieve green transportation goals and reduce carbon emissions. This will be realised through work mechanisms compatible with sustainable initiatives and launching environmentally friendly transportation.

The next stage will see an increase in the number of electric buses operating in Sharjah, as part of efforts to reduce carbon footprint by relying on renewable energy in public transportation.

The newly selected buses are of the King Long model, and include a set of standard specifications, as they are 9 meters long with a 41-passengers capacity. They follow international safety specifications and have obtained a European safety certificate.

The bus is air-conditioned and operates with a battery cooling system.



Flamingo rehabilitation programme completed in Abu Dhabi

In Abu Dhabi, 10 flamingos have been successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild by The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) in partnership with Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue Centre

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), in partnership with the Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue Center Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, has successfully rehabilitated 10 greater flamingos rescued during February's harsh weather event effected by Al-Mizr low pressure at the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve. Heavy rains were accompanied by exceptionally large hail showers, which greatly affected the reserve.

Ahmed Al Hashemi, Executive Director of the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD, said: "The Agency's rangers in the reserve were monitoring the greater flamingo population across the reserve's wetlands from the storm's early hours. It became obvious that hailstones had injured many birds. So EAD immediately activated an emergency response, assigning four teams to rescue the injured birds and transport them to the Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue Center for treatment and rehabilitation.



“The teams also succeeded in rescuing seven newly hatched chicks, aged between one to three days, which were also provided with immediate care at the Center. In addition, four eggs that were about to hatch were rescued to ensure that the chicks remained under the Center’s care and supervision. Examinations and autopsies of the birds done from which samples were taken in coordination with the Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue Center revealed serious injuries due to hailstones.”

Al Hashemi explained that the incident is a rare natural phenomenon that has never been recorded before in the UAE. Globally, it is also considered a rare occurrence, which resulted in the loss of several flamingos due to the heavy hailstorm and the effect of climate change on biodiversity.

“These events prove the readiness of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and its partners to respond instantly and contain any crisis. We proudly expand our efforts in saving wildlife by collaborating with our partners and together with Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue Center we were successful in returning the saved flamingos into their habitats.”

Robert Yordi, General Curator of the Yas SeaWorld Research and Rescue Center and SeaWorld Abu Dhabi, added; “The February storm had left these magnificent birds in bad condition and our team of animal rescue experts and veterinarians worked diligently to rescue, transport and care for the flock to ensure a safe return of the birds that survived to their natural habitat. Partnering with EAD on this rescue operation is part of our larger mission to conserve and protect marine wildlife, habitats and ecosystems across the UAE and the Arabian Gulf.”

It is expected that greater flamingos, which breed in several batches during the winter and early summer in the reserve, will reproduce again, recovering the losses due to the hailstorm. The

The birds were affected by severe storms that hit the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve in February this year



reserve recorded 1,270 breeding pairs in the 2023-2024 winter breeding season and therefore the reserve is expected to recover losses of the 2023-2024 nesting season without the need for any human intervention.

The Agency has been monitoring both terrestrial and marine bird species at Al Wathba Wetland



Reserve since 2002. Since 2005, the Agency has been using advanced satellite-tracking devices to monitor the movement and migration patterns of the greater flamingos from the reserve to northern areas during the summer.

The Greater Flamingo is a largely migratory species, returning annually to Abu Dhabi from breeding colonies in Central Asia. However, groups of greater flamingos reside in some of the UAE's major wetlands, including Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and adjacent coastal sites.

The 4.5-square kilometre inland Al Wathba Wetland Reserve is managed by EAD and was established as Abu Dhabi's first protected area in

1998 under the directives of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan following successful flamingo breeding seasons. The reserve is the only location in the Arabian Peninsula where greater flamingos breed regularly.

During the winter months, the reserve hosts more than 4,000 greater flamingos, which usually breed during this period. A site of global importance, the reserve was the first site in Abu Dhabi to join the international Ramsar List of Wetlands. In 2018, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) included Al Wathba on its worldwide Green List of protected areas and nature conservation areas.

3rd Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Agriculture Excellence Award launched

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) has announced the launch of the 3rd Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Agricultural Excellence Award under the theme "Innovative Farmers & Breeders with a Sustainable Vision".

Applications will remain open until November 15, 2024, followed by judging, evaluation, and site visits to select the finalists, with the winners to be announced in February 2025.

The Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Agricultural Excellence Award offers winners cash prizes totaling more than AED 5.3 million across 4 main categories and 13 sub-categories, namely the Best Outstanding Plant & Animal Production Farm, including: the Best Farm in Open Field Cultivation, the Best Farm in Greenhouse Cultivation, the Best Farm in Fruit Production, the Best Organic Farm, Productive livestock Farms, Small-Scale Producers, Beekeepers and Aquatic Farms.

The second category is dedicated to commercial farms and includes two awards, one for commercial plant farms and the other for commercial animal farms. The third category is dedicated to agricultural innovation and includes two awards, the first for plant production and the other for animal production. Empowering women and celebrating their essential role in the Emirati society, the award introduces the best distinguished woman farmer and breeder award, which includes two sub-awards: one for the best distinguished female farmer, and the other for the best distinguished female breeder.

ADAFSA established the Agricultural Excellence Award as a major catalyst for farmers and livestock breeders to adopt best practices in the industry. Now in its third year, the award has become a quality label sought by farmers and livestock breeders, serving as a certification of confidence in national products and their ability to meet the requirements of the local market.

UAE's vision aligns with GCC countries to enhance regional food security: Amna Al Dahak

The 36th Ministerial Meeting of the Agricultural and Food Security Committee of the GCC, hosted by the State of Qatar, highlighted the need for strengthening the agricultural and food sectors

At the 36th Ministerial Meeting of the Agricultural and Food Security Committee of the GCC, hosted by the State of Qatar under its current presidency, Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment in the UAE, emphasised the alignment of the UAE's vision with that of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

She stressed the importance of cooperation among the member states, and highlighted the need for harmonising efforts, practices, and policies on key issues, particularly in enhancing regional food security. The UAE Minister also acknowledged the GCC General Secretariat's efforts to achieve Gulf-wide integration, removing obstacles and creating a shared vision for food security.

The meeting was chaired by Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah, Minister of Municipality



of Qatar, and attended by ministers responsible for agriculture and food security from the GCC countries.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Al Dahak affirmed that the UAE is making significant efforts to strengthen the agricultural and food sectors. "These efforts aim to bridge gaps between sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, and food security, while promoting investment in modern agricultural technologies. The UAE's focus on research and development (R&D) seeks to guarantee sustainable production, foster collaboration to diversify import sources, and create a flexible food system."

Dr. Al Dahak said, "The UAE continues to advance this sector while expanding cooperation with various countries to promote sustainable agriculture and standardise legislation within the GCC. These solutions are crucial not only in enhancing food security, but also in empowering agricultural and aquaculture regulations."

She added, "The UAE and GCC states share common agricultural challenges, particularly water scarcity and limited arable land. These challenges present opportunities for close cooperation and the exchange of sustainable practices to achieve positive outcomes. Our shared consensus paves the way for increased collaboration and expertise-sharing, while also aligning policies to unify our efforts in advancing the agriculture and food sectors."

During her speech, Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak invited GCC countries to participate in the first edition of the World Food Security Summit, scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi on 26th–27th November, 2024, as part of Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Security Week (ADAFSW).

The summit will bring together experts and decision-makers to discuss innovative solutions to strengthen the global food security system,

The UAE will host the first edition of the World Food Security Summit in Abu Dhabi on 26th–27th November 2024, as part of Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Security Week (ADAFSW)



providing a platform for exchanging best practices and showcasing advancements in the food security sector.

The 36th Ministerial Meeting of the Agricultural and Food Security Committee of the GCC addressed key issues to harmonise efforts for enhancing food security, including the GCC Food Security Strategy. This strategy positively contributes to integrating procedures among



member states to create a Gulf entity capable of withstanding crises.

The UAE also agreed with the GCC's vision on several important files concerning the agriculture, aquaculture, and animal sectors.

Additionally, the UAE endorsed the adoption of the GCC Guide for the Collection and Transport of Animal Samples as a reference, ensuring its alignment with international standards and safeguarding the GCC countries from epidemic and infectious animal diseases.

Green Bus Services launched

In a groundbreaking move towards a sustainable future, the (Abu Dhabi Mobility) of the Department of Municipalities and Transport announced the launch of its cutting-edge Green bus service, powered by clean hydrogen and electric energy.

The initiative marks a significant milestone in the Green Bus Programme, developed by Abu Dhabi Mobility, which seeks to transform Abu Dhabi Island into a public transport green zone by 2030.

The new Green Bus service will operate on Route

65 between Marina Mall and Shams Boutik in Al Reem Island.

The Green Bus Programme aims to evaluate and select the most suitable technologies and solutions in hydrogen and electric power and to provide these options to residents, visitors, and commuters in Abu Dhabi. This will be achieved through collaboration with international government bodies and bus manufacturers.

The assessment period for the Green Bus Programme, launched in November 2023, is set to conclude in June 2025. During this time, bus operators, including drivers, will participate in theoretical and practical training sessions led by the partners of Abu Dhabi Mobility for the Green Buses.

Additionally, certified technicians will continue to receive training to ensure they are equipped to perform daily maintenance and inspections.

As the public bus fleet transitions from diesel fuel to renewable energy, it is anticipated that annual carbon dioxide emissions in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi will be reduced by more than 100,000 metric tonnes in the future.



UAE Council for Climate Action reviews national progress and discusses preparations for COP29

UAE NEWS

The UAE Council for Climate Action outlined the progress in implementing national initiatives in collaboration with all relevant authorities in the UAE and the preparation for the upcoming COP29 in Azerbaijan in November.

The third meeting of the UAE Council for Climate Action in 2024 was chaired by Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA). The meeting focused on several key topics, most notably the progress in implementing the UAE's Net Zero Strategy 2050. The Council emphasised continued collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the strategy's projects.

The meeting addressed the need for legislation to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of climate change and foster sustainable economic growth and social well-being. The Council discussed the latest advancements in the carbon market project and Carbon Pricing Study. The

meeting also addressed the progress made on the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA), examined the second phase of the National Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System, in addition to the progress in the UAE's Nationally Determined Contributions in the coming period.

The meeting discussed preparations for the UAE's national participation in COP29, working on developing a strategic plan to build on the success of last year's COP28 in the UAE, and coordinating with all stakeholders involved in the UAE delegation to identify and align on the initiatives that will be presented at COP29, under the guidance of the Supreme Committee for COP29 in Azerbaijan.

Representatives from MOCCA and various ministries including Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology attended the meeting.

Abu Dhabi launches innovative sea cage aquaculture project

Project aims to contribute to relieving pressure on wild fisheries resources, boosting seafood supply, and addressing climate change impacts

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has launched the first-of-its-kind marine cage aquaculture project in Abu Dhabi.

Launched under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EAD, the project aligns with the vision of Abu Dhabi's sustainable aquaculture policy.

The project, located southeast of Delma Island within Al Dhafra Region, aims to conduct scientific studies and research on culturing local fish species using floating aquaculture cage systems and develop environmental protocols for sustainable sea-based aquaculture in Abu Dhabi.

It will also contribute to relieving pressure on wild fisheries resources and addressing climate change impacts. Furthermore, it will support



food security objectives in light of the increasing demand for seafood and encourage future investments in the sector.

The project will also be equipped with an advanced monitoring and data collection system, utilising artificial intelligence, making it the first of its kind in the Middle East. It aims to implement solutions to manage aquaculture operations with high efficiency and will use environmental sensors to monitor marine water quality parameters, including temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and ammonia levels.

This will also be augmented by underwater and surface cameras to track fish behaviour and feeding efficiency and a smart gateway for data transmission powered by solar panels.

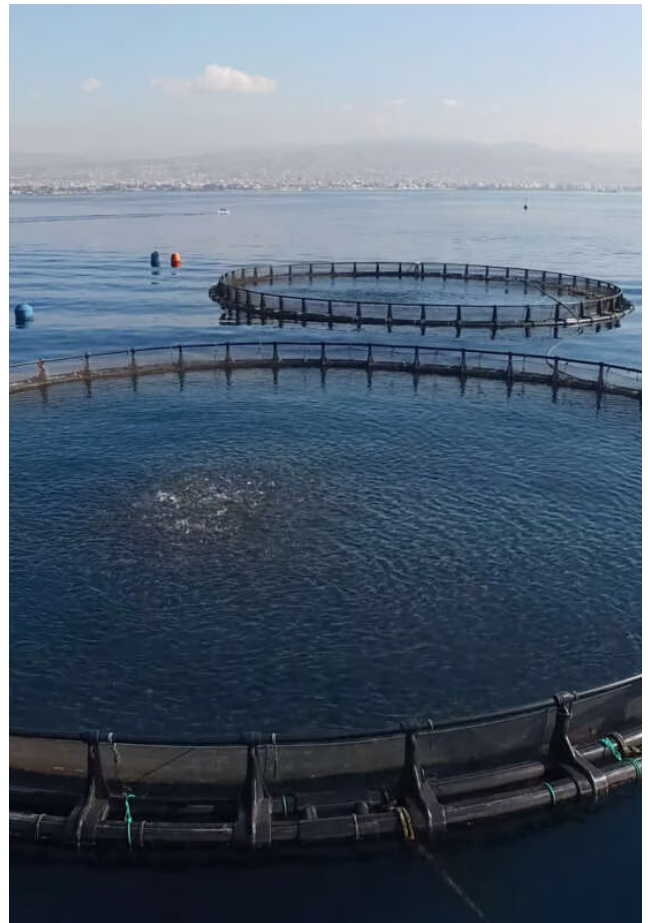
Before establishing the project, EAD implemented a state-of-the-art integrated hydrodynamic and environmental modeling to establish sustainable aquaculture development zones in the Al Dhafra Region. The modeling was carried out to determine the maximum biomass of fish that can be sustainably cultured within selected sites without impacting the environment.

The model also included components to study wave and particle movements and water quality to ensure the environmental sustainability of the selected sites.

The project comprises six floating sea cages capable of producing 100 tonnes of fish annually. Targeted fish species included various local high-value species such as Gabit, Safi, Hamour, and Sheri, and 168,000 Safi Arabi, 122,000 Gabit, 100,000 Shaam, and 90,000 Shaari were released.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, EAD Secretary-General, said, "As part of our efforts to promote sustainable aquaculture in the emirate and implement our sustainable aquaculture policy

The project will conduct scientific studies and research on cultivating local fish species using floating cage systems for aquaculture and develop environmental protocols for sustainable aquaculture at sea in Abu Dhabi



initiatives, we are conducting the first aquaculture cage project southeast of Delma Island, which will include the cultivation of local fish species that are vulnerable to overexploitation."



MOCCAIE urges leveraging digital innovation to accelerate sustainability solutions

The dialogue focused on ways to transition to a low-carbon economy through innovation, green initiatives, and collaboration with the private sector

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAIE) organised the 14th National Dialogue on Climate Ambition at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in Dubai. This event is part of a series of sector-specific assemblies to establish a national sustainability outlook and guide the country's pursuit of climate neutrality.

The 14th assembly, organised in partnership with IMPACTGULF, explored how innovation can accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and examined the importance of green initiatives in linking digital transformation with sustainability.

During the event, seven additional entities from both the private and public sectors signed MOCCAIE's Climate Responsible Companies Pledge, bringing the total number of signatories to 138. Dubai Road and Transport Authority, Dubai Holding, Emirates Development Bank, Al-Futtaim Group, Stratecis, Antelope Toplink LLC, and IPT-energy are all committed to intensifying

their efforts to combat climate change.

These entities will measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions transparently, develop ambitious science-based plans to reduce their carbon footprint and share these plans with the UAE government to contribute to achieving the national net-zero target by 2050.

Dr. Alanoud Alhaj, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary of Green Development and Climate Change at the MOCCAE, stated, “The National

During the event, seven additional entities from both the private and public sectors signed MOCCAE’s Climate Responsible Companies Pledge, bringing the total number of signatories to 138



Dialogue on Climate Ambition underscores the Ministry's commitment to fostering ongoing engagement with major corporates and the private sector, who are key partners in the UAE's journey towards achieving net-zero by 2050.”

She added, “The private sector is instrumental in fostering innovation to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and facilitate the transformation of various industrial and service sectors into sustainable systems. Through collaboration and sharing best practices in this

field, we can more effectively promote sustainable economic growth in the UAE.”

She concluded, “We are pleased that seven additional entities have signed our Climate Responsible Companies Pledge. By doing so, they are committing to aligning their efforts with our national decarbonisation drive. These companies recognise the opportunity in diversifying their business in pursuit of sustainability.”

In her keynote address, Aisha Al Abdooli, Director of the Green Development Department at the



UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, advocated the need to harness digital innovation to power impactful sustainability solutions. She emphasised the importance of domestic and international collaboration to drive digital innovation and foster shared knowledge.

Christoph Klarmann, Deputy Ambassador of the German Embassy to the UAE and Alya Al Zarouni, Chief Operating Officer, DIFC stressed the importance of aligning efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while recognising the work of both the Dubai Sustainable Working Group and the DIFC Sustainable Finance Catalyst in paving the way towards a more responsible and impactful financial future.

The 14th National Dialogue on Climate Ambition featured presentations from Yassin Nasri of

IMPACTGULF and Joëlle Jammal, Executive Director of United Nations Global Compact UAE. It concluded with a working session on “The Pros and Cons of AI for the Advancement of Sustainability.” The session was moderated by Ahmed Ameen Ashour, Chief Sustainability Commercial Officer for Microsoft Middle East and Africa, and Shayma Kurz, CEO of Digital Advice Consulting.



تسريع تحول التنقل
لمدن أكثر ذكاءً واستدامة

Accelerating Mobility Transition Towards
Smarter and More Sustainable Cities

دبي
مؤتمر ومعرض أنظمة النقل الذكية
20-16 سبتمبر 2024
التنقل الذكي

DUBAI
ITS World Con
16-20 September 2024
Mobility Driven by ITS

Experts call for data-driven decision-making to accelerate smarter, sustainable cities

At the 30th Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress and Exhibition held in Dubai in September, companies showcased the latest smart mobility and transport technology innovations. Key focus areas included Urban Mobility, Innovation in Mobility & Logistics, Clean Mobility, and Automated Mobility.

The session "Accelerating Mobility Transition Towards Smarter and More Sustainable Cities" emphasised that high-quality data must drive decision-making in this transition. The process is not merely on data collection but on gathering meaningful data, analysing it effectively, and leveraging it to expedite the transition of transportation and mobility systems towards smarter, more sustainable urban environments.

Mohammed Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, Road and Transport Authority, Dubai, said, "The rapid urban growth cities are experiencing worldwide poses a challenge to urban planning, the integration of public transport networks, and their

transformation towards smarter, more sustainable systems." Al Mudharreb highlighted that RTA's Cutting-edge Traffic Management System leverages the latest technological advancements, operates with exceptional efficiency, and is driven by a highly skilled and knowledgeable technical team.

Jon Newhard, CEO, of Yunex Traffic of Munich, Germany, said: "Accomplishing net-zero emissions in modern cities is essential, and clean transportation, reliable information, and actionable data are key drivers in the transition towards smarter and more sustainable cities."

Addison Ferrell, Director of Infrastructure at Skyports, said: "One of our most groundbreaking projects is the world's first air taxi initiative, currently being implemented by RTA in partnership with Skyports and Joby Aviation in Dubai. This pioneering project is poised to position Dubai as the smartest and most sustainable city worldwide."



IRENA and Azerbaijan COP29 Presidency to hold Energy Transition Investment Forum in Baku

The two-day forum will convene global and regional stakeholders to mobilise investments for renewables-based energy transition projects across Central Asia

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), COP29 Presidency, and Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan have announced that the first Energy Transition Investment Forum for Central Asia will be hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 15-16 November 2024.

The event is strategically aligned with the COP29 priorities and action agenda outlined by President Designate H.E. Mukhtar Babayev in a recent letter to parties and constituents, focusing on enhancing ambition and enabling action, with climate finance underscored as a top priority.

IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera said: "Central Asia holds tremendous potential for renewable energy development, yet they face significant challenges in attracting the necessary investment.

"The COP29 Energy Transition Investment Forum in Baku is specifically designed to tackle investment barriers, coordinate action among

stakeholders, and bring global exposure to projects from the region.”

COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev added: “Azerbaijan is committed to a green energy transition and there is currently close cooperation with neighboring countries in Central Asia in the field of renewable energy. Initiatives such as the recent agreement between the energy ministers of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan on the interconnection of electricity

The Energy Transition Investment Forum for Central Asia aligns with COP29's core priorities of enhancing ambition and enabling action, with climate finance at the forefront



systems are testament to this cooperation. When the world gathers in Baku this November, we hope that COP29 can serve as a springboard for Central Asia to progress on a green and just development pathway, aided by a young population, renewable energy capacity, and vibrant economies, and attract the investment needed to continue on this path.”

Minister of Energy Parviz Shahbazov stated: “Azerbaijan is taking crucial steps to realize the initiatives of strategic importance that enable

the development of renewable energy with regional projects. The interconnection of the energy systems of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan and delivering the huge energy potential of the Central Asian countries to the Turkish and European markets through green energy corridors is one of our priorities. The Forum will be a productive platform to strengthen the green energy partnership with the Central Asian countries, attract investors and energy companies, and facilitate our joint projects.”

Word Scramble

AEHL YHT
MNR NEVOTGE
SHWLAE

LWDRO
TEESR
ENEMTONRNIV
TESANNUESC

ENACL

52

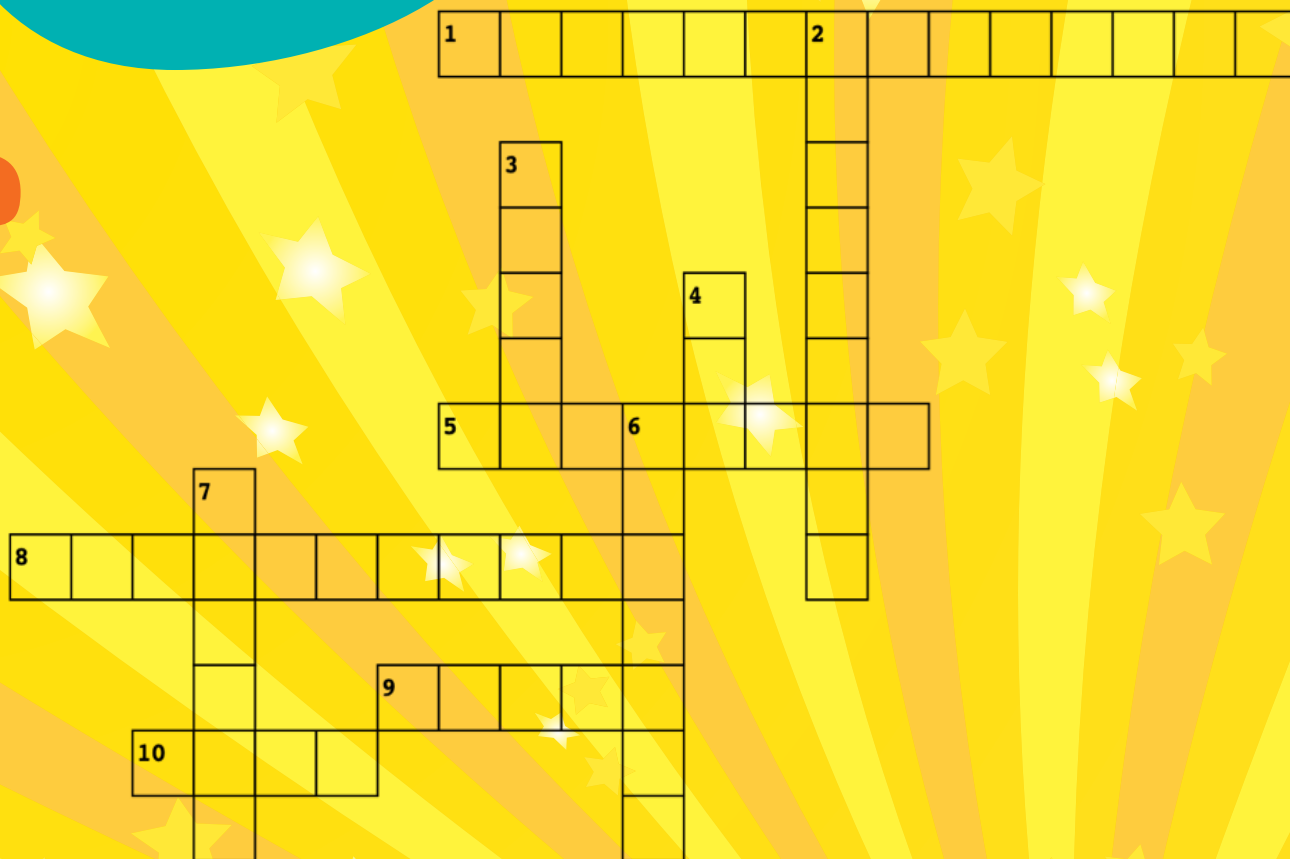
ANSWERS: 1) Trees 2) Whales 3) Environment 4) World 5) Government 6) Clean 7) Sustenance 8) Healthy

Word Search

N	S	S	O	M	S	E	L	T	R	U	T	L	A
A	R	I	F	A	R	M	E	R	S	M	G	R	E
F	L	O	R	A	S	Y	M	L	R	A	S	R	M
N	T	D	D	O	C	E	A	N	S	I	S	E	E
B	V	A	G	Y	G	G	N	D	L	C	E	R	M
T	T	M	V	A	R	O	N	W	W	U	N	P	A
L	S	C	I	M	E	D	N	A	P	R	R	L	N
V	E	B	R	E	E	I	T	C	V	R	S	U	A
W	E	A	E	Y	N	E	A	I	R	U	E	R	G
D	D	M	U	L	R	I	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E
M	R	L	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	O	M
S	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	R	E
N	L	R	E	N	E	W	A	B	L	E	R	Y	N
W	I	L	D	L	U	S	H	R	T	S	A	T	T

PANDEMIC
ENVIRONMENT
GREEN
MOSS
FARMERS
DIVERSITY
WILD
WATER
LUSH
OCEANS
RECYCLE
TURTLES
FLORA
RENEWABLE
MANAGEMENT

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Increasing population to unsustainable levels
5. Rain that contains a high concentration of pollutants
8. A natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms
9. 40% of premature deaths in this country were caused by air pollution
10. Smoke and other pollutants combined with fog

Down

2. Contamination of the environment
3. Another word for poisonous
4. The government of the US and the world have enacted policies and created agencies to regulate the quality of
6. Also known as an illness or sickness
7. Air pollution can cause us to have an upper respiratory disease called

ANSWERS: 1) Overpopulation 2) Pollution 3) Toxic 4) Air 5) Acid rain 6) Disease 7) Asthma 8) Fossil fuels 9) China 10) Smog



WORD OF THE DAY:

THERMAL POLLUTION

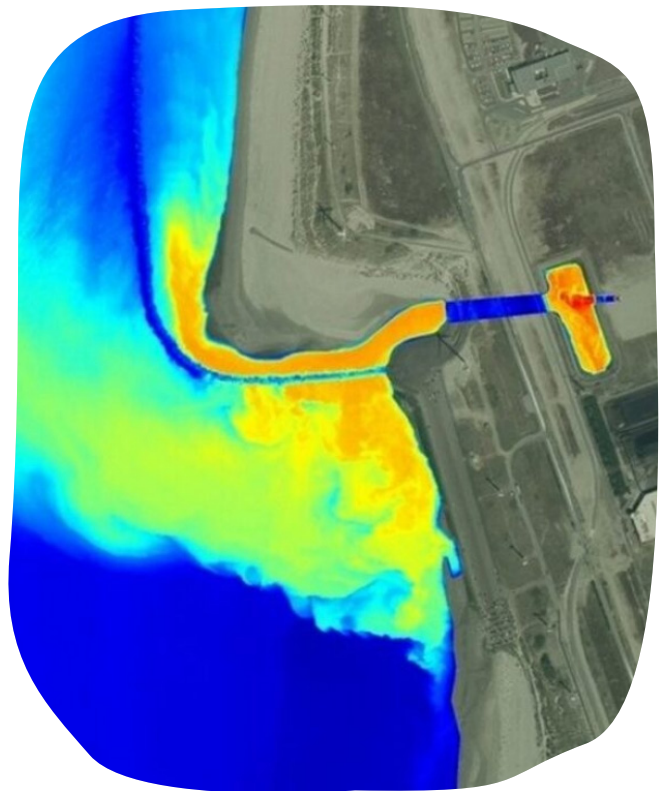
Thermal pollution is a rapid change in temperature in a natural body of water. This pollution is most often caused by heated discharge from an industrial facility or another human activity. Thermal pollution can result in disruptions in natural systems and stress, disease, or even death for affected organisms.

When heat moves rapidly into a water source, it generates direct and indirect environmental effects. Aquatic organisms are highly sensitive to even small changes in water temperature. When populations of fish and other organisms decline, it may provoke ripple effects through the ecosystem.

Thermal pollution also alters oxygen levels. The introduction of warmer water causes oxygen levels to drop, affecting aquatic life. Warmer water encourages the growth of algae, which absorb sunlight and cause further warming. These effects are often intensified if the discharge water contains a lot of nutrients, as is the case with agricultural runoff and untreated sewage. Warmer temperatures can increase aquatic organisms' vulnerability to chemicals present in these wastewaters, such as ammonia, heavy metals, and pesticides. Together, thermal pollution and nutrient loading can cause hypoxic "dead zones," with very low oxygen levels.

Thermoelectric power plants fueled by coal, natural gas, nuclear, or biomass and other waste products constitute significant causes of thermal pollution. In addition to power plants, other industrial facilities—such as petroleum refineries, pulp and paper mills, chemical plants, and steel mills—contribute to thermal pollution. They also use water to cool machinery and discharge water at elevated temperatures.

This process of sucking in water from a lake, ocean, or river for industrial purposes and then releasing heated water back to its source is called once-through cooling. It has long been



known to adversely affect aquatic and marine environments. Because of once-through cooling, fish and larvae that get trapped against intake screens are killed, and habitats are altered due to the discharge of warmer, often polluted water.



WORLD ANIMAL DAY - OCT 04

World Animal Day, sometimes referred to as World Animal Welfare Day or World Animal Protection Day is an annual event on the 4th of October, celebrating animal rights and welfare across the globe since 1925.

By increasing awareness and improving education worldwide, those involved are helping to create a space recognising wild and farmed animals as sentient beings with thoughts, feelings, and individual personalities. Their animal welfare practices, and treatment must reflect this.

With its international reach, many people around the world celebrate World Animal Day

in different ways. Businesses and individuals can give a voice to animals by celebrating World Animal Day in various ways, whether that's through a fundraising event for charities supporting protection efforts, a goods donation drive or education sessions, there are so many options for everyone to get involved.

World Animal Day was first celebrated on 24th March 1925 in Germany. It was started by Heinrich Zimmermann, a cynologist, who organised the first celebration at the Sports Palace in Berlin, which was reportedly attended by over 5,000 people.

OCT
07

WORLD HABITAT DAY

World Habitat Day, marked on 7 October, is held this year under the theme "Engaging youth to create a better urban future." This event aims to address the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanization by focusing on the active involvement of young people in shaping sustainable cities and communities. The observance focuses on how we can engage the new generation in planning their urban present and future through participatory processes and local leadership opportunities.

The world is rapidly urbanizing, and currently, youth in the global South make up 70 per cent or more of cities. By 2050, cities are projected to host approximately 70 per cent of the world's population, highlighting the pressing need for inclusive urban planning and sustainable development.

Despite global efforts, the United Nations acknowledges persistent challenges in advancing the SDGs, which pose significant obstacles to the equitable growth and resilience of urban areas worldwide. Mobilizing support from all segments of society is crucial. Empowering youth and involving them in urban decision-making is essential for developing



inclusive and resilient cities. By harnessing the energy, Creativity, and perspectives of youth, Cities can work towards more sustainable and equitable development.

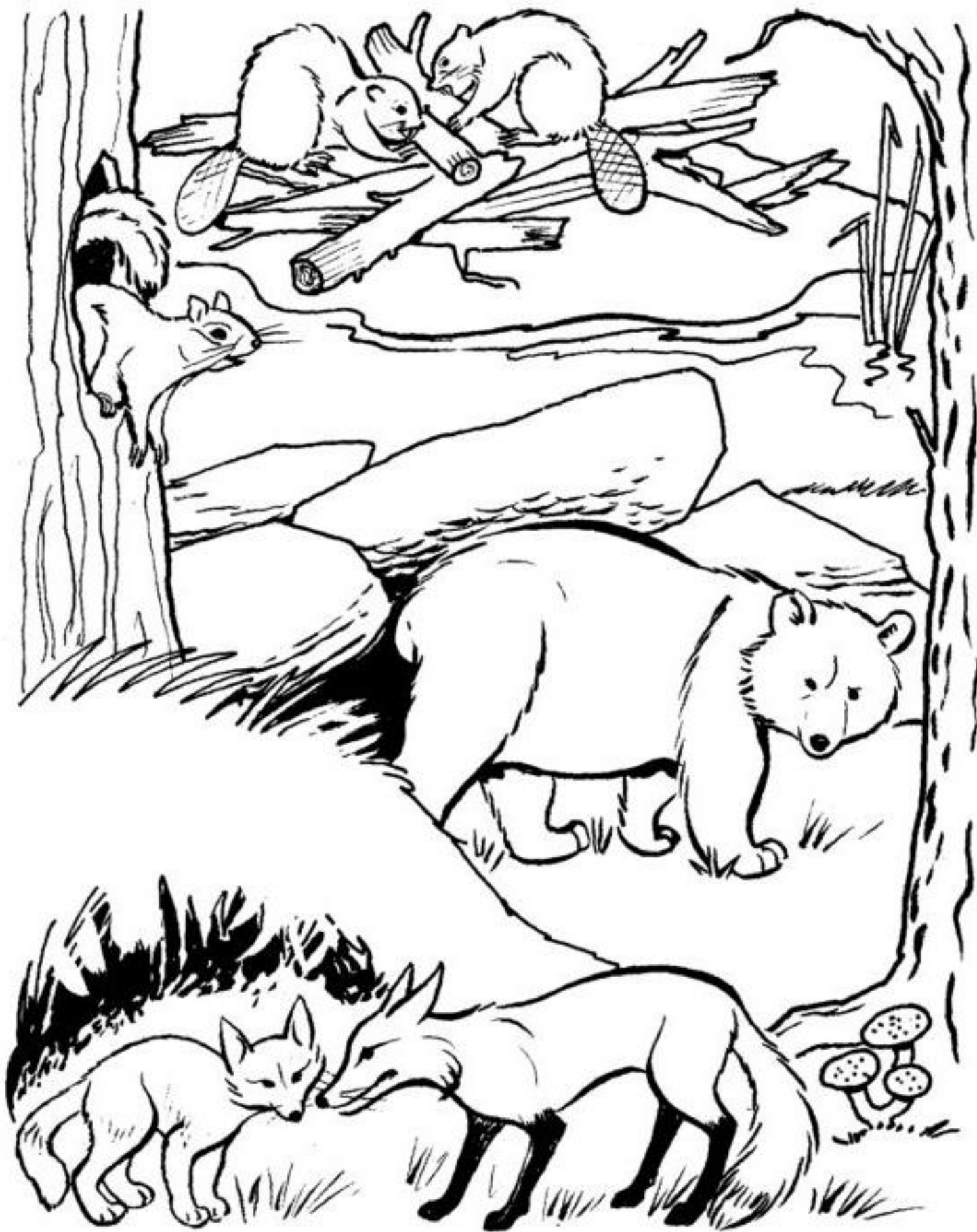
World Habitat Day presents an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of youth to sustainable urbanization, while addressing the challenges of rapid urban growth.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Reuse items when making your crafts for school! _ _ _
- ☒ Pick up the trash around you! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Read books about the environment! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Take short showers! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Volunteer for a clean-up drive! _ _ _ _ _

COLOUR ME!



Elusive Blanford's Fox spotted in UAE's Wadi Wurayah National Park



The elusive Blanford's Fox, a small fox first recorded in the UAE's mountains in 1995 and classified as 'Vulnerable'(VU) in the National UAE Red List and the Arabia Regional Red List, has been captured on camera as part of the Notice Nature initiative.

Launched by Mashreq and environmental charity Emirates Nature-WWF, Notice Nature is the UAE's unique wildlife mapping initiative, designed to evaluate the conservation status of key species and contribute to the protection and rehabilitation of the UAE's rich biodiversity.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Fujairah Environment Authority.

Blanford's Fox is strictly nocturnal and feeds mainly on insects, fruits, and rodents such as Wagner's gerbil and spiny mice.

It is a very small fox species, with adults weighing around 3 kg. It has large ears and a long bushy tail

almost as long as the body, which may be tipped black or white. The solitary fox lives in rocky mountain areas on hillsides and in wadis and can easily jump vertically three metres onto ledges.





FAO marks International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

The fifth International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLOW) was observed on September 29 under the theme 'Climate Finance for Food Loss and Waste Reduction'

Reducing food loss and waste is crucial for improving food security and nutrition, promoting the efficient use of resources, protecting the environment, and fostering a more equitable distribution of food resources globally, according to QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

He made the remarks to mark the fifth International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on September 29, which highlighted the critical need for financing to help reduce food loss and waste and thus contribute to achieving climate and SDGs.

Over 13 percent of food is lost globally in the supply chain after harvest on farms and before the retail stages. Furthermore, food waste, occurring at retail, food service, and household levels stands at 19 percent.

Additionally, food loss and waste account for an estimated 8 to 10 percent of global greenhouse

However, “by reducing food loss and waste, countries and communities can benefit from improved food security, access to healthy diets and reduced malnutrition while decreasing their greenhouse gas footprints,” Qu noted. The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook Report for the period 2024-2033 projects that by halving food loss

The event highlighted the critical need for financing to bolster efforts to reduce food loss and waste, contribute to achieving climate goals, and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



To achieve this, an increase in climate investments, and the re-design and up-scale of storage systems to reduce food losses upstream in the supply chain, particularly in low-income economies, is much needed. Raising public awareness and consumer education is also critical, the FAO Director-General highlighted.

India is to have a National Agriculture Code (NAC) for optimum utilisation of resources, deployment of the latest technologies, and use of best practices in crop selection and storage of produce.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been tasked with creating the Code. Agriculture contributes about 20 percent to India's gross domestic product and employs around 50 percent of India's workforce.

WHO issues new global guidance to curb antibiotic pollution from manufacturing

The new guidance was developed in close collaboration with a diverse group of international experts, including representatives from academia, regulators, inspectors, international organizations, and other sectors

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published its first-ever guidance on antibiotic pollution from manufacturing. The new guidance on wastewater and solid waste management for antibiotic manufacturing sheds light on this important but neglected challenge that was also discussed at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in September.

The emergence and spread of AMR caused by antibiotic pollution could undermine the effectiveness of antibiotics globally, including the medicines produced at the manufacturing sites responsible for the pollution.

Despite high antibiotic pollution levels being widely documented, the issue is largely unregulated and quality assurance criteria typically do not address environmental emissions. In addition, once distributed, there is a lack of information provided to consumers on



how to dispose of antibiotics when they are not used, when they expire or when a course is finished but there is still antibiotic left over.

“Pharmaceutical waste from antibiotic manufacturing can facilitate the emergence of new drug-resistant bacteria, which can spread globally and threaten our health. Controlling pollution from antibiotic production contributes to keeping these life-saving medicines effective for everyone,” said Dr. Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for AMR ad interim.

Globally, there is a lack of accessible information on the environmental damage caused by manufacturing of medicines. “The guidance provides an independent and impartial scientific basis for regulators, procurers, inspectors, and industry themselves to include robust antibiotic pollution control in their standards,” said Dr. Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO.

“Critically, the strong focus on transparency will equip buyers, investors and the public to make decisions that account for manufacturers’ efforts to control antibiotic pollution,” Neira said.

The guidance was developed in close collaboration with a diverse group of international experts representing academia, regulators, inspectors, international organisations such as UNEP, and other sectors. The draft also underwent public consultation, receiving valuable input from industry and other stakeholders. Industry has also taken up this challenge, though a voluntary industry-led initiative which can be updated in some areas to align with the new guidance.

The guidance provides human health-based targets to reduce the risk of emergence and spread of AMR, as well as targets to address risks for aquatic life caused by all antibiotics intended for human, animal or plant use. It covers all steps from the manufacturing of active

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines



pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulation into finished products, including primary packaging.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines, making people sicker and increasing the risk of spread of infections that are difficult to treat, illness and death. AMR is driven largely by the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials, yet, at the same time, many people around the world do not have access to essential antimicrobial medicines.



Highest annual growth of renewables jobs in 2023, reaching 16.2 million

New report underscores the importance of holistic policies and investments in support of building a skilled and diverse workforce

2023 saw the highest ever increase in renewable energy jobs, from 13.7 million in 2022 to 16.2 million, according to the newly released Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2024 by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The 18% year-on-year leap reflects the strong growth of renewables generating capacities, together with a continued expansion of equipment manufacturing.

A closer look at the report's data, however, shows an uneven global picture. Close to two-thirds of new global solar and wind capacity were installed in China alone last year.

China leads with an estimated 7.4 million renewable energy jobs or 46% of the global total. The EU followed suit with 1.8 million, Brazil with 1.56 million, and the United States and India, each with close to 1 million jobs.

As in the past few years, the strongest impetus

came from the rapidly growing solar photovoltaics (PV) sector, which supported 7.2 million jobs globally. Of these, 4.6 million were in China, the dominant PV manufacturer and installer. Enabled by significant Chinese investments, Southeast Asia has emerged as an important export hub of solar PV, creating jobs in the region.

Liquid biofuels had the second-largest number of jobs, followed by hydropower and wind. Brazil topped the biofuels ranks, accounting for one-

China leads with an estimated 7.4 million renewable energy jobs, making up 46% of the global total



third of the world's 2.8 million jobs in this sector. Soaring production put Indonesia in second, with a quarter of global biofuels jobs.

Due to a slowdown in deployment, hydropower became an outlier to the overall growth trend, with the number of direct jobs estimated to have shrunk from 2.5 million in 2022 to 2.3 million. China, India, Brazil, Vietnam, and Pakistan were the largest employers in the industry.

In the wind sector, China and Europe remain

dominant. As leaders in turbine manufacturing and installations, they contributed 52% and 21% to the global total of 1.5 million jobs, respectively.

Despite immense resource potential, Africa continues to receive only a small share of global renewables investments, which translated into a total of 324,000 renewables jobs in 2023. For regions in urgent need of reliable and sustainable energy access like Africa, and especially in remote areas, decentralised renewable energy (DRE) solutions – stand-alone systems that are



not connected to the utility grids – present an opportunity to both plug the access gap and generate jobs. Removing barriers for women to start entrepreneurship initiatives in DRE can stimulate the sector, resulting in improved local economies and energy equity.

Acknowledging the high degree of geographic concentration, Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director-General, said, “The story of the energy transition and its socio-economic gains should not be about one or two regions. If we are all to fulfil our collective pledge to triple renewable power capacity by 2030, the world must step up its game and support marginalised regions in addressing barriers impeding their transitions progress. Strengthened international collaboration can mobilise increased finance towards policy support and capacity building in countries that are yet to benefit from renewables job creation.”

To meet the energy transitions’ growing demand for diverse skills and talents, policies must support measures in favour of greater workforce diversity and gender equity. Representing 32% of the renewables total workforce, women continue to hold an unequal share even as the number of jobs keeps rising. It is essential that education and trainings lead to diverse job opportunities for women, youth, and members of

minority and disadvantaged groups.

“Investing in education, skills, and training helps reskill all workers from fossil fuel sectors, address gender or other disparities, and prepare the workforce for new clean energy roles. It is essential if we are to equip workers with the knowledge and skills that they need to get decent jobs, and to ensure that the energy transition is a just and sustainable one. A sustainable transition is what the Paris Agreement requires of us, and what we committed to achieving when we signed up to the Agreement,” explained ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo.

This 11th edition of the Annual Review is part of IRENA’s extensive analytical work on the socio-economic impacts of a renewables-based energy transition. This edition – which is the 4th edition developed in collaboration with ILO – underscores the importance of a people- and planet-centred approach to achieve a just and inclusive transition.

It calls for a holistic policy framework that goes beyond the pursuit of technological innovation to rapidly meet the tripling target at the lowest-possible cost, and prioritises local value creation, ensures the creation of decent jobs, and builds on active participation by workers and communities in shaping the energy transition.



UAE Council for Climate Action reviews national progress and discusses preparations for COP29

UAE NEWS

The UAE Council for Climate Action outlined the progress in implementing national initiatives in collaboration with all relevant authorities in the UAE and the preparation for the upcoming COP29 in Azerbaijan in November.

The third meeting of the UAE Council for Climate Action in 2024 was chaired by Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA). The meeting focused on several key topics, most notably the progress in implementing the UAE's Net Zero Strategy 2050. The Council emphasised continued collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the strategy's projects.

The meeting addressed the need for legislation to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of climate change and foster sustainable economic growth and social well-being. The Council discussed the latest advancements in the carbon market project and Carbon Pricing Study. The

meeting also addressed the progress made on the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA), examined the second phase of the National Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System, in addition to the progress in the UAE's Nationally Determined Contributions in the coming period.

The meeting discussed preparations for the UAE's national participation in COP29, working on developing a strategic plan to build on the success of last year's COP28 in the UAE, and coordinating with all stakeholders involved in the UAE delegation to identify and align on the initiatives that will be presented at COP29, under the guidance of the Supreme Committee for COP29 in Azerbaijan.

Representatives from MOCCA and various ministries including Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology attended the meeting.



A model for both climate resilience and desertification control

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Foundation
for the Environment

66

GREEN FLASH

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was invited by the Heartfulness Institute in Kanha Shanti Vanam, Telangana, India to participate in a youth summit from September 20-22, titled "Rising with Kindness".

This marks the beginning of a global movement rooted in kindness, compassion, and positive change, fostering empathy and boosting self-confidence. We must harness the energy and creativity of young generations to empower compassionate communities worldwide, promoting social stability, green living, and sustainable development.

The main purpose of our visit was to witness the Institute's efforts in afforestation and the rainforest created in this dry region, in addition to the education, environment, and wellness programs.

The Institute has built an impressive water harvesting system that ensures no drop is wasted. Water is channeled into canals designed to help replenish the groundwater and all surplus goes into artificial lakes. Stored water is released via rain guns to sprinkle the forest in the dry season.

The Heartfulness Institute has planted over one million trees and established a nursery of millions of saplings from over 800 species and 150 families of

plants including endangered species in the originally barren area of Kanha. They have also established a unique tissue culture laboratory propagating endangered plant species. This protects endangered species and facilitates their reintroduction to their natural habitat. Another noteworthy practice is the production of biochar from wood and agricultural waste, which is useful for sequestering carbon and soil enrichment. Its water absorption capacity also helps retain soil moisture in dry periods.

Moreover, these efforts were carried out in partnership with the villagers, completing the cycle of sustainability. The villagers voluntarily offered the land to the Institute as the barren land was not fit for cultivation. Following the restoration efforts, the villagers are now growing crops and harvesting organic vegetables and fruits.

I firmly believe that this model should be replicated across arid regions to combat desertification and achieve climate resilience. All international and regional climate finance initiatives should support the global expansion of this approach, especially in the dry regions of Africa and Asia.

Let us join hands to champion and scale up such successful models.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment