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Zayed International Prize for the Environment



Together for a green century



Chairman's Message



Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

The UAE, and Dubai in particular, are inspiring global beacons of innovation and progress. Guided by the country's and the Emirate's visionary leadership, we have consistently strived to not only meet the challenges of the present but to proactively shape a brighter future for our citizens and the world. This commitment is embodied in a range of strategic infrastructure projects that are transforming Dubai into a model of sustainable urban development.

At the heart of this transformation lies a dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all who call Dubai home. Our leadership understands that true prosperity is not solely measured in economic terms, but also in the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our environment. This holistic approach is reflected in the ambitious urban development projects currently underway, designed to create vibrant, livable spaces that foster a sense of belonging and community.

These projects are integral to building a resilient and sustainable future. Significant infrastructural investments address the pressing need for responsible waste management and clean, renewable energy to support the country's economic diversification efforts and mitigate the impact of climate change.

In 2025, designated as the "Year of Community" in the UAE, this vision takes on even greater significance. Our leadership recognizes that strong, vibrant communities are the bedrock of a thriving society. The "Year of Community" serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of fostering a sense of belonging, encouraging civic engagement, and celebrating the diversity of these communities.

Dubai's continuous investments in advanced transportation and communication networks are aimed at connecting people, ideas, and opportunities, and ensuring that everyone can participate fully in the achievements of the city. This collaborative approach is essential to building a truly inclusive and equitable society and will continue to guide us as we boldly accelerate into the future.

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Dubai's strategic urban development projects drive sustainability, quality of life

New phase of urban development focuses on strengthening community wellbeing and supporting Dubai's long-term resilience

Dubai is entering a new era of urban development, driven by strategic projects focused on enhancing the quality of life, strengthening community wellbeing, and supporting the city's long-term resilience. This progress is guided by the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the directives of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai.

His Excellency Marwan bin Ghalita, Acting Director General of Dubai Municipality, highlighted this transformative phase during a media briefing hosted by the Government of Dubai Media Office (GDMO) as part of its 'Meet the CEO' series. He emphasized that Dubai Municipality is leading the charge by delivering large-scale sustainable infrastructure and

reimagining digital municipal services. Bin Ghalita also outlined the Municipality's priorities and latest progress across a range of areas, including infrastructure, housing services, AI-driven technology, public health, food safety, and community spaces.

The guidance of the Emirate's leaders has enabled Dubai to consistently lead global competitiveness rankings, in line with the leadership's ambition to make Dubai the best city in the world to live, work, and visit, he stressed.



“Guided by the vision of our leadership, Dubai has moved beyond the concept of a global city to firmly establish itself as the city of the future,” said Bin Ghalita. “At Dubai Municipality, we adopt a proactive and forward-looking approach to advance the goals of future-driven strategies and initiatives. We place strong emphasis on human capital, ensuring our teams are well-

By 2027, all landfills in Dubai will be closed, three years ahead of the previously announced schedule

trained and fully prepared to handle crises and emergencies, building on the wealth of experience we have accumulated in this field.”

During the session that was attended by industry leaders and editors-in-chief of the UAE media outlets, Nasser Bushahab, CEO of the Planning and Governance Sector at Dubai Municipality, highlighted the Municipality's role in achieving the objectives of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, Dubai Social Agenda 33 and the Dubai Urban Master Plan 2040, which serve as key frameworks for the city's future development.

Bushahab stressed the importance of the Master Plan as a roadmap aimed at making Dubai the best city to live in by offering the highest quality of life and attracting the talent and skills needed to drive economic growth.

Rainwater drainage system

Adel AlMarzouqi, CEO of the Waste and Sewerage Agency at Dubai Municipality, outlined key developments in infrastructure, including the ‘Tasreef’ project, the region's most advanced and operationally efficient unified rainwater drainage system scheduled for completion by 2033. With a total investment of AED30 billion, the project is now underway with four initial phases set to serve nine areas across Dubai. Contracts for these phases, valued at AED1.439 billion, were awarded in April 2025.



Largest waste-to-energy facility

He also provided updates on the AED80 billion Dubai Strategic Tunnels for Sewerage Project, which recently completed the tendering phase for public-private partnerships, and the Waste-to-Energy Centre in Warsan, which generates 220 megawatts of renewable energy per hour, totalling 5,280 megawatts daily, enough to power more than 135,000 homes.

The facility, which processes approximately two million tonnes of waste per year, was developed through a public-private partnership involving Dubai Holding, Dubal Holding, ITOCHU Corporation, Hitachi Zosen Inova, and BESIX

Group. Al Marzouqi also highlighted Dubai Municipality's plans to close all landfills by 2027.

Housing and urban planning

Maryam Al Muhairi, CEO of the Building Regulation and Permits Agency at Dubai Municipality, shared key Dubai Municipality initiatives in housing and urban planning, including the 'Home is a Priority' initiative, launched to provide integrated housing solutions that support Emirati families and strengthen community stability. The initiative aligns with the 'Year of Community' and the Sheikha Hind bint Maktoum Programme for Families and supports the goals of the Dubai Social Agenda 33.

Dubai Municipality's contribution to the emirate's public-private partnership portfolio amounts to AED28 billion for the period 2024–2026, covering 13 high-priority projects

Al Muhairi also provided updates on land allocation for Emiratis and masterplans for priority development areas such as Latifa City and Al Yalays 5, where final planning stages have been completed.

She noted Dubai Municipality's efforts to digitalise building and construction services through a proactive, integrated model. This includes the launch of multiple service bundles and the integration of AI and digital twin solutions across platforms like the Digital Buildings Platform and Dubai Build Platform.

'Dubai Digital Twin' project

The session also addressed the completion of the 'Dubai Digital Twin' project, which aims to create a digital replica of Dubai through two- and three-dimensional maps encompassing all assets, landmarks, facilities, and infrastructure. The project is designed to support decision-making, planning, analysis, simulation, and the delivery of smart services.

Dr. Naseem Mohammed Rafie, Acting CEO of the Environment, Health, and Safety Agency at Dubai Municipality, addressed Dubai Municipality's efforts to enhance public health and ensure food safety. Among the key initiatives is the 'Safe Water for a Healthy Community' programme, launched in line with the 'Year of Community' and in partnership with the Community Development Authority to assess water safety systems in the homes of senior citizens across 10 districts.

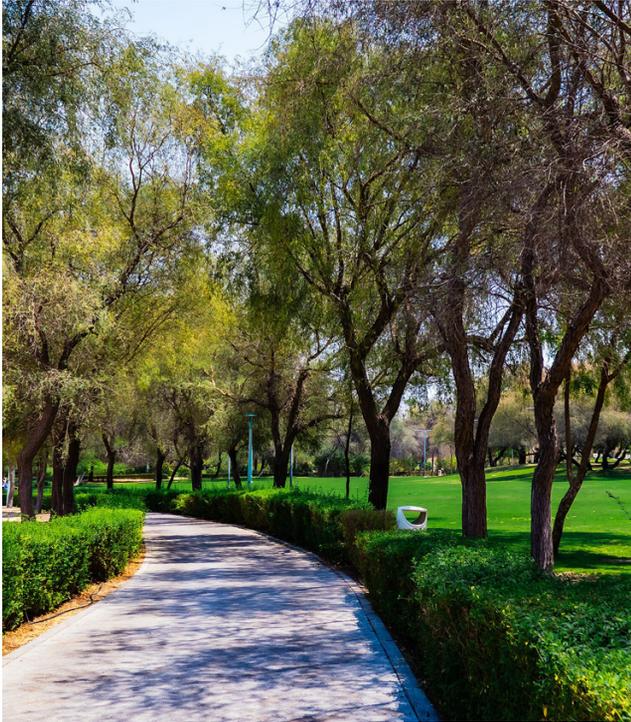
The first phase evaluated 42 homes to ensure compliance with the highest quality and safety standards.



Food safety standards

Dr. Rafie outlined a range of initiatives and digital tools introduced to strengthen food safety standards and maintain the quality of food products across Dubai, including the 'Montaji Plus' app — an integrated system for regulating product trading in line with health and safety requirements.

The application features a database of more than 1.7 million registered products to facilitate efficient import and export operations. It also incorporates proactive and supervisory measures



to ensure compliance with the highest public health standards during various events and activities, supported by a comprehensive plan for field inspections and monitoring.

Dr. Rafie highlighted the Municipality's extensive efforts in food safety inspections, noting that Dubai receives nine million tonnes of food and related products through its ports each year. She emphasised that ensuring safety at this scale demands continuous, round-the-clock work by dedicated teams, in cooperation with relevant authorities.

Expanding green spaces

Bader Anwahi, CEO of the Public Facilities Agency at Dubai Municipality, highlighted Dubai Municipality's ongoing efforts to expand green spaces, noting the extensive, round-the-clock work required to support citywide landscaping and irrigation. Municipality teams plant around 600 trees daily, while its nurseries produce 90 million seedlings a year using advanced technology and robotics, he said.

Anwahi also provided updates on several ongoing projects aimed at enhancing Dubai's public spaces, including the 'Community Councils' project, which includes the construction of five new community majlis venues in Nad Al Sheba 2,

Al Awir 2, Al Barsha South 1, Al Warqaa 2, and Hatta. He also outlined progress on public park and beach development projects, including enhancements at Al Mamzar Beaches — covering the Creek and Corniche areas — and the ongoing construction of Jumeirah Beach, which is set to open to the public in July this year.

Public-private partnerships

Sayed Ismail Al Hashimi, Acting CEO of the Corporate Support Sector at Dubai Municipality, emphasised the importance of partnerships with the private sector and the need to foster a business-friendly environment to enable investors to grow their ventures. He noted that Dubai Municipality's contribution to the emirate's public-private partnership portfolio amounts to AED28 billion for the period 2024–2026, covering 13 high-priority projects focused on enhancing quality of life.

Al Hashimi reaffirmed that Dubai Municipality's service transformation will enhance customer happiness by offering seamless, integrated experiences. He noted that the first phase of the new virtual appointments system will cover over 50% of all municipal services, enabling customers to book virtual appointments to follow up on requests or obtain answers to inquiries.



Over 2,000 tonnes of bottles recovered under Abu Dhabi's Bottle Return Scheme

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has recovered more than 2,000 tonnes of bottles since the launch of the Bottle Return Scheme in 2023. Following the launch of the scheme, EAD, along with Sparklo, the organisation's strategic oversight and cleantech leader, also collected 23 million recyclables in 2024.

The scheme, part of the Abu Dhabi Single-Use Plastic policy, has empowered residents to adopt responsible waste disposal habits.

The agency has collaborated with several partners from the retail industry, waste operators and cleantech providers, and with Sparklo, deployed more than 100 Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs), known as Sparklomats, across Abu Dhabi, with retail outlets of ADNOC, Lulu and Carrefour, offering convenient return access points for plastic bottles and aluminium cans.

The 23 million recyclables collected in 2024 alone included more than 544,000kg of plastic and 18,000kg of aluminium. The cumulative impact of this initiative has prevented more than 3.5 million kg of CO₂ emissions, aligning with Abu Dhabi's ambitious goal of a 22 per cent carbon emissions reduction by 2027. In a single-day milestone, one Sparklomat processed more than 8,500 items, setting a record for individual unit performance.

Sheikha Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Executive Director of the Integrated Environmental Planning and Policy Sector at EAD, said, "The EAD-led Bottle Return Scheme, held in collaboration with private sector organisations



embodies the importance of partnerships, technology, and community engagement in creating a sustainable environmental impact. By supporting the principles of the circular economy, we seek to strengthen Abu Dhabi's leading position in the global transformation towards building a sustainable future."

As EAD and Sparklo continue to scale the initiative, efforts will focus on expanding the RVM network and deepening community engagement, further solidifying Abu Dhabi's leadership in sustainable innovation.

Hamdan bin Mohammed launches 'MyDubai Communities' platform, connecting Dubai through shared experiences

'MyDubai Communities' was launched as part of the initiatives introduced during the 'Year of Community'

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has launched 'MyDubai Communities', a community-based digital platform that gives citizens, residents and visitors alike the opportunity to explore and participate in the city's diverse range of activities.

Contributing to strengthening the fabric of Dubai's society while promoting the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence that Dubai is known for, the new platform marks an evolution of the popular #MyDubai initiative, which was launched in 2014 by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed to celebrate the everyday lives of people in the emirate and showcase their diverse experiences and adventures.

Inspired by His Highness' call to create an autobiography of Dubai through social media,



the #MyDubai initiative has succeeded in showcasing myriad aspects of life in the city, its unique identity, and its authentic culture to the world, thus playing a vital role in reinforcing Dubai's status as a preferred destination to visit, live and work.

Accessible through mydubaicommunities.com as the main platform and highlighted through @mydubaicommunities on Instagram and TikTok,



the centralised MyDubai Communities platform is designed to unite diverse communities - from culture and arts, to sports, wellness, and varied professional backgrounds - across various social media platforms in Dubai, bringing them together under one organised, activity-based umbrella to serve all residents and visitors. Its launch comes amid the UAE's celebration of 2025 as the Year of Community, which aims to strengthen community bonds by creating inclusive spaces that foster collaboration, belonging, and shared experiences.

The innovative digital platform reaffirms Dubai's commitment to prioritising the well-being and happiness of its people, and fostering stronger connections within the community

Aiming to connect people from different age groups, nationalities, and cultural backgrounds within Dubai's population of 3.85 million people, the platform will help users discover dedicated communities that share their passions and interests, enhance communication, and strengthen connections among residents of Dubai, which is home to nearly 200 nationalities. In its initial phase, the platform offers access to around 100 interest-based communities, providing users with a unique opportunity to join groups aligned with their passions, foster creativity and a sense of belonging, and create an enriching environment for strengthening community bonds.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan stated that Dubai, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, is moving towards a new phase of excellence, and social and cultural eminence, driven by accelerated efforts to solidify its position as one of the world's best cities in every conceivable way. Adopting a forward-looking vision, Dubai places its people at the heart of all projects and initiatives, keeping their happiness and well-being paramount.

Dubai's development journey continues to set global benchmarks, inspired by innovative strategies, proactive projects, and initiatives that enhance public health, promote cultural diversity, and foster a cohesive and prosperous community.



His Highness emphasised that the true measure of a city's success is not limited to its architecture and infrastructure alone, but also its vibrant soul and the strength of its community bonds.

The MyDubai Communities initiative aligns with the Dubai Social Agenda 33, which aims to position Dubai among the world's top three cities in terms of standard of living.

The comprehensive community gateway enables users to discover events and hobbies across a variety of key categories. These include recreational sports events that bring together diverse communities, such as car enthusiasts, cyclists, runners, and water sports fans. The platform also features cultural and professional events, including art workshops, reading clubs, and networking sessions dedicated to specific groups like mothers and women-only communities.

MyDubai Communities boasts a modern, simple,

and user-friendly design, allowing users to easily explore dynamic communities across Dubai and apply for listing existing ones in under five minutes, ensuring a seamless and fast experience.





Butterfly Gardens Abu Dhabi set to open in September 2025

UAE NEWS

The Butterfly Gardens Abu Dhabi has announced the opening of the first immersive butterfly Sanctuary in Abu Dhabi on September 2025. The announcement was officially made at Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025, the region's premier global event for the travel and tourism industry.

Located adjacent to The National Aquarium at Al Qana, The Butterfly Gardens will offer a fully immersive, nature-driven experience, marking a vibrant new addition to Abu Dhabi's tourism landscape.

Home to over 10,000 butterflies, The Butterfly Gardens will feature lush tropical landscapes enclosed within climate-controlled bio-domes that replicate diverse ecosystems from around the world. The facility will be divided into two zones, Asia and the Americas, each highlighting species native to its region.

Visitors can encounter two-toed sloths, Caiman crocodiles, and American insects in the Americas

dome, while the Asian dome will host bearcats, koi carp, and a range of Asian insects. As they move through the gardens, guests will be surrounded by butterflies, offering a truly immersive experience.

Paul Hamilton, General Manager of The Butterfly Gardens Abu Dhabi, said, "With the Butterfly Gardens Abu Dhabi, our primary objective is to create an environment that authentically mirrors their natural habitats, ensuring they thrive in a secure and controlled setting. This nature reserve is designed to promote a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of our ecosystems."

Designed to inspire wonder and promote conservation, The Butterfly Gardens Abu Dhabi offers a unique blend of education, entertainment, and natural beauty. As the first immersive butterfly paradise in the capital, it invites families, students, and nature enthusiasts to explore a vibrant ecosystem up close.



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Riad Al Fan Foundation partner to champion environmental awareness through art

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment recently partnered with Morocco-based Riad Al Fan Foundation for Art and Environment to take the message of environmental sustainability to a regional and international audience through a carefully curated art exhibition by leading Arab and global artists at World Art Dubai, the region's largest contemporary retail art fair.

The thought-provoking Art and Environment pre-exhibition was part of a showcase of over 10,000 artwork pieces at Dubai World Trade Centre from April 17-20, 2025. With this participation, the Zayed International Foundation and Riad Al Fan Foundation joined more than 400+ local and international exhibitors, 120+ renowned galleries and solo artists from 65+ countries at the prestigious annual fair to champion art and culture, with the Zayed International Foundation presenting the only thematic display around 5 environmental pillars.

The Art and Environment exhibition at World Art

Dubai featured 10 of the 40 compelling mixed-media artworks, successfully bridging the gap between artistic expression and environmental consciousness. By placing these artworks within a vibrant and accessible art fair, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment sought to spark conversations and inspire action among art enthusiasts, collectors, and the general public alike. Each piece on display explored the vital connection between humanity and the natural world, and the exhibition sought to raise awareness about pressing environmental challenges and demonstrate how art can serve as a powerful tool for promoting positive change.

The curated artworks also paid tribute to the founding fathers of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, whose early vision and dedication to environmental stewardship laid the foundation for the nation's commitment to sustainability. Their foresight in recognizing the importance of preserving the natural environment served as a guiding principle for the progress of the UAE and

inspired some of the works on display.

"This exhibition was a vital platform to express the deep connections between art and the environment," said Prof. Mohamed Ahmed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment. "Art can be a driving force towards positive change, helping us understand the

Each piece on display explored the vital connection between humanity and the natural world



importance of preserving our planet and inspiring concrete steps towards sustainability. This embodies our vision of integrating the arts with environmental issues, a step towards building a more sustainable future."

Representing Zayed International Foundation at the event were Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee; Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor; and Salma Moustaid, Partnerships and Operations Director.

Calling for greater investments in art, Eng. Nouredine Tabete, President of Riad Al Fan

Foundation for Art and Environment and Curator of the Exhibition, added, "Our exhibition was a unique platform for artistic expression, showcasing contemporary artists who address themes related to the environment. The goal was to create a connection between the artists and the audience, enhancing their understanding of art's role in society and its potential to influence climate change."

Other Zayed International Foundation for the Environment members at the event included Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee; Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor; and Eng. Salma Moustaid,



Partnerships and Operations Director and the Art and Environment Exhibition Director.

The exhibition showcased the diverse talents of artists from the region and globally, each bringing their unique perspective and artistic style to the themes of environment and sustainability. Participating artists included **Noureddine Ghazi**, a self-taught contemporary artist from Morocco. Ghazi's art addresses themes of identity and belonging, making him one of the most brilliant artists representing his culture through modern art.

Daouda Ndiaye is a multi-talented artist from Senegal whose work ranges from paintings to installations, addressing themes related to identity, culture, and humanity. Through his art, Daouda seeks to make a positive impact on society, as he believes in the power of art as a means of change and self-expression.

Chen Zhaochen, a talented artist and calligraphy master from China, now resides in the Moroccan capital Rabat. He explores traditional and modern styles, demonstrating a unique ability to integrate Chinese cultural heritage with his contemporary artistic vision.

Noureddine Tabete's art delves into the human condition, exploring the inherent contradictions we face daily. The contemporary artist from

Morocco masterfully balances opposing emotions like joy and sadness, rationality and delirium, to reflect the complexities of our existence, prompting viewers to question the very nature of mind, thought, and self.

In an interview with Society & Environment, **Noureddine Tabete**, Curator of the exhibition, delved deeper into the exhibition's themes, collaborative process, and its potential impact.

1. The collaboration between the Zayed International Foundation and the Riad Al Fan Foundation emphasizes integrating art with environmental issues. Could you elaborate on how this partnership came about and how it specifically shaped the vision and execution of the exhibition at World Art Dubai?

This collaboration is a direct outcome of discussions held during COP28 in Dubai, and reflects a shared vision to elevate environmental awareness through art. Recognizing the power of art to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers, the goal was to showcase thought-provoking artwork that inspires dialogue, promotes awareness, and encourages action towards a more sustainable future. The exhibition's carefully curated selection of pieces aimed to resonate with diverse perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between humanity and the environment.



collective experience. This philosophy enhances the richness of the artwork, creating exciting interactions through a diversity of styles and visions.

The Zayed International Foundation embraced this philosophy, which ultimately led to the creation of 40 collaborative works featuring four artists from different countries.

While there were challenges navigating cultural differences and creative approaches, requiring us to sometimes stop and start again, the final result was a powerful testament to the beauty that can emerge when artists relinquish individual control and embrace a shared vision rooted in human trust and cooperation. The resulting artwork became a powerful symbol of the exhibition's message: that by working together and embracing diverse perspectives, we can overcome even the most daunting environmental challenges.

The Zayed International Foundation's expertise in environmental issues, combined with the Riad Al Fan Foundation's artistic expertise, allowed us to curate a collection that is both visually stunning and intellectually stimulating, ultimately amplifying the message of environmental responsibility at World Art Dubai. Through the coordination of events, exhibitions, and books, the partnership reflects a strong commitment from both parties to make a positive and sustainable impact on society and the environment.

2. The "four or more hands" philosophy, where artists intervene in each other's work, is fascinating. Could you tell us what makes this idea so significant to the artistic process?

The "four or more hands" philosophy was central to our collaborative process, fostering trust and shared creativity. It's about bringing our souls close to each other, shedding the ego to allow another to shape your vision and make room for their ideas while still presenting your own. This approach contributes to free expression, where the individual ego is abandoned in favor of the

3. The exhibition addresses humanitarian crises and human selfishness in the context of climate challenges. How do you believe the artworks effectively communicated these complex issues to the diverse audience at World Art Dubai?

Art has the unique ability to bypass language barriers and connect with audiences on an emotional level. By visually representing the consequences of human selfishness and the devastating impact of climate change, we aimed to evoke a sense of empathy and responsibility. The artworks depicted scenes of environmental degradation, displacement,





and the struggle for resources, prompting viewers to confront the realities of our current situation.

We hoped to spark a sense of urgency and inspire viewers to reflect on their actions and consider how they can contribute to a more sustainable future. The goal was to move beyond intellectual understanding and foster a deep, personal connection to the environmental challenges we face.

4. The exhibition had five themes: Land repair, desertification, water conservation, Dubai initiatives in combating climate change, and the role of women in sustainable development. How did these themes translate into the visual language and artistic choices within the exhibition?

Each of the five themes was carefully translated into a distinct visual language employing the use of vibrant colors and textures, light and dark shades, calligraphy, fingerprints, and more. While muted tones and stark imagery depicted the loss of fertile land, flowing lines emphasized the preciousness and fragility of our water resources. These artistic choices ensured that each theme was visually compelling and effectively communicated its message.

5. Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid's early interest in nature and the environment served as inspiration. In what ways did their legacy directly influence the aesthetic or conceptual

elements of the artwork on display?

The visionary leadership of Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, with their deep respect for nature, is a foundational element of this exhibition. We incorporated portraits of these leaders alongside imagery representing the UAE's natural landscapes to highlight their commitment to preserving the environment. The use of traditional Emirati motifs and colors further reinforces their influence, reminding viewers of the importance of honoring their legacy by continuing their work towards a sustainable future.

6. The exhibition incorporated well-known sayings and expressions related to the environment. Can you explain what meaning it adds to the piece?

Incorporating well-known sayings and expressions related to the environment added a crucial layer of meaning to the exhibition, resonating with viewers on a deeply personal and cultural level. Every culture possesses a rich vocabulary of idioms, proverbs, and phrases unique to its region or people.

These spoken and written expressions encapsulate the human relationship with the environment, highlighting the importance of environmental awareness within the collective culture. By weaving these familiar phrases into the artwork, we aimed to create a connection that transcended mere visual appreciation, prompting viewers to reflect on their cultural heritage and its intrinsic link to environmental stewardship.

7. The five materials (metals, plastics, ceramics, organic materials, and composites) played a significant role. How did the artists choose and manipulate these materials to express both aesthetic beauty and the environmental challenges being addressed?

The choice of materials was deliberate, reflecting both aesthetic considerations and the environmental challenges we aimed to address. These elements also added depth and visual richness to the artwork.



For instance, in "The Paradox," the overlapping of colors and materials reflected the complexities of desertification and its negative effects. Similarly, "The Fading" addressed the poignant subject of land repair through the use of vanishing materials like copper and metal. These materials embodied the idea of decay, shimmering under the light to create the impression that life once existed but is now in a state of decline, physically representing the tragedy depicted in the painting.

Organic materials, on the other hand, emphasized the beauty and importance of natural resources. The most rewarding aspect was the ability to give new life to discarded materials and create art that promotes environmental consciousness.

8. Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of this exhibition?

We envision the exhibition travelling to galleries across the UAE, Morocco, and beyond, reaching a broader international audience and fostering a global dialogue about environmental responsibility. By showcasing the power of art to communicate complex issues and inspire positive changes, we believe this exhibition can contribute to a greater understanding of the interconnectedness between humanity and the environment and inspire individuals to become active participants in creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

The Zayed International Foundation recognizes the immense potential of this exhibition and has expressed interest in co-organizing a bigger second edition next year to further amplify vital environmental messages.

ALTÉRRRA invests US\$100mn in Evren to fuel India's clean energy ambitions

The world's largest private climate investment vehicle makes its first Global South investment, supporting the development of 11GW of solar, wind, and battery storage projects in India



22

CLEAN ENERGY

ALTÉRRRA, the world's largest private climate investment vehicle, has announced its inaugural co-investment, injecting US\$100 million into Indian renewable energy company, Evren, to accelerate the expansion of clean energy alongside Brookfield Asset Management ("Brookfield") and other investors.

The investment is being made via the ALTÉRRRA Acceleration Fund, and it is ALTÉRRRA's first direct investment into the Global South.

This investment will support the development and construction of up to 11GW of solar, wind, and battery storage projects in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, contributing to India's 500GW

renewable target by 2030.

As a key contributor to India's renewable energy expansion, Evren plays a key role in meeting the national targets while strengthening its local clean energy ecosystem. By working with domestic manufacturers for wind turbines and solar modules the platform is not only accelerating the deployment of renewables but also supporting supply chain resilience and economic growth.

As the world's fastest-growing major economy in 2024 with an expected 6.5% GDP growth rate, India is racing to meet its surging energy demand with clean power.

The strong demand for renewable energy, potentially translating to a \$300 billion investment requirement by 2030, is not only being driven by economic growth, but also breakthroughs in energy storage, large-scale infrastructure expansion and the Government's effort to make the renewable power investment environment more robust for investors, enhanced by several regulatory measures.

Commenting on the transaction, Majid Al Suwaidi, CEO of ALTÉRRRA, said, "ALTÉRRRA's investment in Evren is a powerful demonstration of our mission in action—catalysing capital into tangible, scalable, and economically compelling climate initiatives.

"By deploying capital into India's fast-growing economy, we are supporting reliable and affordable energy generation and unlocking investable opportunities. ALTÉRRRA's mission is not just to finance projects but help reshape how and where the world invests through solutions that drive impact and build resiliency."

Connor Teskey, President of Brookfield Asset Management, said, "ALTÉRRRA's investment in Evren is a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to accelerating the global energy transition. By combining Evren's robust development pipeline and Brookfield's extensive operational expertise, we are not only supporting India's ambitious renewable energy targets but also fostering economic growth and energy security."

Evren is one of the latest investments from Brookfield's Global Transition Fund II (BGTF II), which continues to raise capital following its record-breaking \$15 billion first vintage.

ALTÉRRRA is BGTF II's largest third-party

investor, following a US\$2 billion commitment made during COP28. Its participation in BGTF II and the Evren transaction demonstrates its ability to attract and mobilise institutional capital to both developed markets and the Global South, reinforcing its role as a key investor in global clean energy markets.



UAE enhances cooperation with Singapore, Japan in water resource management, sustainable energy

The delegation explored innovative solutions for water resources management, climate-resilient infrastructure, and renewable energy

Headed by Dr. Abdulla Humaid Al Jarwan, Chairman of the Department of Energy (DoE), a delegation from the DoE conducted an official visit to Singapore and Japan, aimed at strengthening strategic collaboration in the areas of water resources management and sustainable energy.

The primary goals of the visit was to share the most recent expertise, knowledge, and best practices concerning rainwater and floodwater management through smart technologies and climate-resilient infrastructure, alongside promoting water resources sustainability. The delegation also explored novel innovative solutions for water resources planning and demand management.

Dr. Abdulla Humaid Al Jarwan, DoE Chairman, stated that collaborations with governmental entities, research organisations, and pioneering firms in Singapore and Japan present a valuable



opportunity to leverage the latest advanced technologies and innovative practices, which aid in improving resource efficiency and realising strategic objectives in the sustainability domain.

While in Singapore, the DoE delegation was welcomed by Jamal Abdulla Al Suwaidi, the UAE Ambassador to Singapore. They discussed avenues for strengthening cooperation with Singapore in energy and water, sharing expertise

The DoE delegation reviewed Singapore's sophisticated solutions for rainwater management and flood mitigation, along with intelligent strategies for water resource planning



on sustainable infrastructure development, utilising smart technologies for managing water resources and energy, and investigating potential public-private partnerships.

The discussion also covered the UAE's clean energy transition efforts towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and examined Singapore's leading practices in stormwater management and energy efficiency.

The DoE delegation reviewed Singapore's

sophisticated solutions for rainwater management and flood mitigation, along with intelligent strategies for water resource planning. Several strategic meetings were held with high-level Singaporean officials, including a key discussion with Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment.

Meetings were also conducted with representatives from the Public Utilities Board (PUB) and SpaceAge Labs concerning AI technologies for water solutions. Furthermore, the delegation visited landmark projects like the Marina Barrage and Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, recognised internationally as an example of climate-resilient infrastructure.

In the energy sector, the delegation examined opportunities for cooperation in renewable energy fields with Tuas Power.

The visit to Japan featured high-level meetings and site visits, including engagements with the Japan Water Agency (JWA), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), and specialised firms like WOTA and Kajima. These interactions focused on potential cooperation in water resources management, AI technology applications, and crafting innovative solutions for climate change challenges.

The delegation also visited significant strategic projects to observe Japan's latest floodwater management technologies.



RTA obtains IP rights for solar-powered Abra design

The intellectual property certificate underscores RTA's commitment to sustainability and positions the authority as a leader in eco-friendly marine transportation

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been awarded an intellectual property certificate for its first industrial design: the solar-powered electric abra.

The certificate was granted to RTA's Marine Transport Department at the Public Transport Agency by the Ministry of Economy, the official authority in the UAE responsible for issuing intellectual property certificates across various fields. This certificate protects RTA's exclusive rights and safeguards its valuable assets.

The abra design is the first of its kind under RTA's Marine Transport Department, which operates traditional wooden boats along Dubai's waterways. Now, with this eco-friendly update, the abra joins a global trend of transforming heritage transport into modern, sustainable alternatives.

This patent protects a valuable asset while also signalling the city's push for smarter, greener transport solutions — in line with Dubai's long-term goals for sustainability.

This certification also adds to RTA's growing track record of achievements in the field of sustainability, particularly with solar energy, one of the key renewable energy sources that contributes to environmental protection and public health.

DP World sources 65% of its electricity from renewables

DP World sourced 65% of its electricity from renewables in 2024, marking a significant step

carbon infrastructure, fleet electrification, and renewable energy systems.

The company also issued a US\$100 million Blue Bond -- the first corporate to do so from Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa -- to fund sustainable projects across marine transportation, port infrastructure, marine pollution, as well as nature and water positive initiatives, setting a new benchmark for sustainable finance in emerging markets.



forward in the company's sustainability journey. The milestone is featured in DP World's latest Sustainability Report, which outlines bold action across the business, with USD 1.17 billion invested in green and low-carbon infrastructure projects.

In October last year, DP World published its inaugural Green Sukuk Impact and Allocation Report detailing the allocation of USD 1.17 billion from a USD 1.5 billion bond raised in 2023 toward eligible green projects, including low-

Beyond operational progress, the report also highlights the company's USD 15.1 million investment in global initiatives focused on education, skills development, and essential infrastructure across the communities it serves.

The report also marks a step forward in ESG governance and transparency practices, with DP World becoming the first corporate globally to publish a Sustainable Development Impact Disclosure Report across five countries.

UAE Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai showcases sustainable design with recycled materials

The architectural masterpiece, constructed from over two million palm fronds, blends Emirati heritage with Japanese craftsmanship to tell a tale of resilience and generosity



In a unique visual spectacle embodying the fusion of heritage and innovation, the UAE pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai rises in the form of an enchanting forest of wooden columns, an architectural masterpiece constructed from over two million palm fronds gathered from across the Middle East and North Africa, narrating a tale of inspiration from the symbol of generosity and resilience in Emirati culture.

The UAE pavilion's design is themed "Earth to Ether" and comprises 90 towering wooden columns, forming a visual forest that celebrates sustainability and human innovation



The pavilion's design, themed "Earth to Ether", comprises 90 towering wooden columns, each reaching 16 meters in height, forming a visual forest that celebrates sustainability and human innovation, seamlessly blending traditional Emirati craftsmanship with refined Japanese carpentry techniques.

The facades of this national edifice are adorned with recycled date pits, presenting the world with a unique Emirati vision that combines authenticity, sustainability, and architectural imagination, utilising approximately two tonnes of this renewable material in the design of the pavilion and its entrances.

This reflects the significance of the palm tree not only as a symbol of Emirati identity, but also as a building material that is renewed and reshaped to tell the story of a nation reinventing its heritage with a spirit of the future.

Shaikha Al Ketbi, UAE Pavilion Creative Director, Deputy Commissioner General of the Pavilion, said that the pavilion's design is based on the recycling of natural materials directly related to the local environment. She highlighted the use of innovative, eco-friendly material such as "Datecrete" for flooring in the pavilion's entrance, a sustainable alternative to cement made from ground date pits and an Emirati innovation.



She also shed light on the "Date Form" material, developed from palm and date waste, which was used in designing various elements of the pavilion.

Al Ketbi explained that the pavilion's design is the result of a creative collaboration between Emirati, Japanese, and international multidisciplinary companies within the "Earth to Ether" group. This collaboration integrated diverse expertise in architecture, engineering, technology, carpentry, and design, under the supervision and leadership of the Expo UAE Team. The Group successfully merged creative partners, including the Italian company Raymond, Atelier Brückner, Ro'ya, and the global studio SLA.

The natural spaces of the UAE pavilion have been designed to reflect a harmonious cultural dialogue. The Japanese "Satoyama" forests, with their

oak and red pine trees adorning the facade, represent the harmonious coexistence between nature and humans. Visitors enjoy the shade of the Pergola roof, made from Japanese cedar wood and shaded with patterns of Emirati "Khoos," a traditional art of weaving palm fronds.

Other GCC pavilions at Expo 2025 Osaka

With colours inspired by desert sands and Gulf shores, and with themes rooted in innovation, humanity, and sustainability, the pavilions of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries illuminate the spaces of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, appearing as radiant islands on the map of the world exhibition. Each pavilion tells stories of transformation, renewal, and confidently stepping into the future.

Through their diverse displays, the GCC countries open windows into their worlds—inviting Expo visitors to experience the cultural heritage of the region and explore the visions and innovations that have evolved over time through rich, multi-sensory experiences. The GCC pavilions share a unified belief: that people are at the heart of development and that challenges are shared opportunities for a more prosperous future.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's pavilion stands out as one of the major attractions at Expo 2025 Osaka, being the second largest after the host country, Japan.

The pavilion presents an ambitious vision that blends deep-rooted heritage with modern transformation in an immersive experience



that combines authenticity with innovation.

Spanning seven interactive halls and exhibitions, the pavilion explores themes of time and place, highlighting the Kingdom's progress in urban development, healthcare, energy, and space. It also emphasises Saudi Arabia's global role across various sectors. Over 700 events are expected to take place at the pavilion throughout the Expo.

At the heart of Kuwait's pavilion, visitors embark on a unique journey that begins in the future, passes through the present, and leads to the past. Utilising advanced digital tools, the pavilion offers engaging content that captures Kuwait's evolution—both its cultural legacy and forward-looking plans in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

The pavilion features the Women's Empowerment Section, spotlighting the achievements of Kuwaiti women in fields such as engineering, media, and science. Each exhibit shares a story of Kuwait's progress, driven by the creativity and leadership of women and youth.

The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion offers visitors a captivating glimpse into the nation's rich history, embodied in an architectural design inspired by the traditional Falaj irrigation system. This symbolic element highlights the pavilion's central themes: water, land, and people. The Falaj is recreated as an interactive feature combining reflected natural light and the gentle sound of flowing water—immersing visitors in a multisensory experience that evokes the essence of Oman's environment.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's pavilion draws attention through a stunning architectural homage to traditional woodships. This modern reimagining of Bahrain's maritime legacy is built entirely from wood and delivers a full sensory experience. Visitors embark on an interactive journey that engages all five senses, weaving together the past, present, and future of Bahrain in a narrative that is both artistic and experimental.

The GCC pavilions share a unified belief: that people are at the heart of development and that challenges are shared opportunities for a more prosperous future



At the Qatar pavilion, visitors embark on a journey through two main sections, sea and land, reflecting the nation's focus on innovation and sustainable development. The pavilion showcases Qatar's rich cultural heritage alongside its achievements in urban planning, economic growth, and environmental stewardship.

UAE hosts World Local Production Forum, championing health equity and global security

Abdulrahman bin Mohamed Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention (MoHAP), inaugurated the third edition of World Local Production Forum (WLPF) in Abu Dhabi, in the presence of Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade and Chairman of the Board of the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE).

Organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) with the support of the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE), the forum was held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center under the theme “Advancing Local Production for Health Equity, Global Health Security, and Sustainable Development.”

The three-day event, running from April 7-9, convened heads of state, senior government officials, representatives of international organisations, leaders in the private sector, financial institutions, and experts from the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. This global gathering provided a platform for dialogue on strengthening local production capabilities and advancing equitable access to essential healthcare products.

In his opening address, Abdulrahman bin Mohamed Al Owais stated that the World Local Production Forum 2025 provides a global platform to accelerate progress on equitable access to medicines, vaccines, and health technologies, and prioritises access to equitable healthcare and inclusive growth. He stressed that the UAE has established itself as a trusted hub for innovation in the pharmaceutical and medical industries, adding that the country’s continued investments in this sector aim to expand local manufacturing capabilities, advance research ecosystems, and uphold the highest international quality standards.



Minister of Health and Prevention inaugurates the forum, emphasizing the UAE's commitment to expanding local pharmaceutical manufacturing and fostering international collaboration



The pharmaceutical sector's growth in the UAE exceeded USD 5.6 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 8 billion by 2030

efficient supply chains." He further reiterated the commitment of Emirates Drug Establishment to advancing research and development, strengthening the regulatory landscape, and creating an environment conducive to pioneering pharmaceutical solutions.

The forum's opening program featured high-level keynote addresses and panel discussions. Distinguished speakers included Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi, Director General of EDE; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO; and Dr. Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products at WHO.

The Minister further emphasised that the UAE is committed to integrating advanced technologies into healthcare production, including artificial intelligence, big data, and smart manufacturing systems.

Hosting this forum, he added, sends a clear message that "local production is now at the heart of our development priorities, and that collaboration with others globally is the key to building a healthier future for all."

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi stated that fostering international partnerships and facilitating strategic investments in the pharmaceutical sector are integral to the UAE's economic and healthcare objectives. He said: "As a global hub for trade and investment, the UAE is dedicated to developing a dynamic pharmaceutical industry that promotes innovation and sustainability, while supporting resilient and





Dr. Fatima AlKaabi stated that the pharmaceutical sector's growth in the UAE exceeded USD 5.6 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 8 billion by 2030, fueled by innovation, strong regulatory frameworks, and increased investment in local manufacturing.

She also highlighted that EDE will spare no effort to integrate artificial intelligence in drug discovery, adopt digital healthcare solutions, and promote sustainable pharmaceutical manufacturing practices, aiming to accelerate medical breakthroughs while upholding environmental responsibility.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, highlighted the importance of building resilient local production ecosystems that support national and global healthcare systems.

He underscored that this can be realised through

a multifaceted approach encompassing technology transfer, advanced research and development, data sharing, and strengthening of regulatory frameworks. These efforts, he noted, are vital in enabling countries to develop and sustain robust pharmaceutical manufacturing capacities.



BEEAH and Sharjah Sustainable City partner to promote sustainability, smart waste solutions

BEEAH, a leader in sustainability and innovation, and Sharjah Sustainable City – the first master-planned sustainable residential community developed by Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) in partnership with Diamond Developers – have announced a strategic partnership aimed at transforming waste management practices and advancing Sharjah Sustainable City's Environmental, Social, and Governance goals.

In the presence of senior dignitaries, including Ahmed Obaid Al Qaseer, CEO of Shurooq, and Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO & Vice Chairman of BEEAH, the partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Yousif Ahmed Al Mutawa, Chief Real Estate Officer of Shurooq, and Fahad Ali Shehail, CEO of Environment at BEEAH.

The partnership establishes a collaborative framework for both Sharjah Sustainable City and BEEAH to jointly launch and implement innovative sustainability initiatives.

Yousif Ahmed Al Mutawa, Chief Real Estate Officer of Shurooq, said, "Our collaboration with BEEAH represents a major milestone in our mission to create a truly sustainable urban community that serves as a model for future development. By leveraging Sharjah Sustainable City's role as a living laboratory and BEEAH's expertise in environmental innovation and waste management, we are raising the benchmark for eco-friendly communities in the region."

As part of the collaboration, BEEAH will design



and implement education and training programs focused on sustainable waste management. The initiative will engage residents, facility management teams, and the wider community, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to lead sustainable lifestyles.

Sharjah Sustainable City will serve as a pilot platform for testing and adopting new technologies proposed by BEEAH, contributing resources and expertise toward joint sustainability projects. The partnership will also facilitate collaboration on research grants, pilot programs, and community-driven sustainability events. Other key focus areas include waste management automation, smart transition technologies, and biogas plant operations.

Škoda Enyaq: Pure electric power



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ELECTRIC MOBILITY

The New Enyaq offers more than just a sleek, timeless design, a spacious interior, and a host of comfort and safety features

Škoda Auto has advanced its electrification strategy with the introduction of the new Enyaq family, updating one of Europe's most successful all-electric model series. Notably, both the Škoda Enyaq and the Škoda Enyaq Coupé now feature the brand's new Modern Solid design language, reinforcing their visual appeal.

The updated Enyaq boasts optimised aerodynamics, along with sustainable materials and extensive standard equipment. Additionally, the new Enyaq family introduces enhanced digital capabilities and more advanced assistance systems. Bidirectional charging is a new feature, allowing the battery to serve as a supplementary energy storage unit at home.

The new Enyaq family embraces the Modern Solid design language, combining robustness,

The Design Selections prioritise sustainability, using innovative, durable, and practical materials



aerodynamics. These include the new front with its Modern Solid design, marked by a slimmer Tech-Deck Face with a smoother transition to the bonnet, optimised air curtains, a sealed gap between the radiator and grille, and newly designed aerodynamic wheels. The new Škoda Enyaq has a drag coefficient as low as 0.245, versus 0.255 for the previous model.

Spacious interior

The interior of the new Škoda Enyaq excels with its timeless design, outstanding ergonomics and intuitive controls. It offers plenty of space for passengers as well as generous luggage capacity - 585 to 1,710 litres in the Enyaq and 570 to 1,610 litres in the Enyaq Coupé. A 5 inch Digital Cockpit and central 13-inch infotainment display are standard.

Head-up display with augmented reality is optionally available as part of the Advanced

functionality and authenticity. Defining the Enyaq's front, the sleek, glossy black Tech-Deck Face conceals sensors such as the radar system and front camera.

Another new feature is the illuminated Tech-Deck standard from SportLine, with fine, vertical eyelashes illuminated by LEDs. Positioned above the Tech-Deck Face, it visually links the upper light units of the LED Matrix beam headlights. Two striking LED units in the lower modules provide a new, horizontal interpretation of the four-eyed night-time face that has become a hallmark of Škoda SUVs.

Several of the new Enyaq's features and adaptations enhance its already outstanding





package. The redesigned steering wheel is now heated as standard and features Škoda lettering.

Short charging times

All variants of the new Škoda Enyaq support high charging rates: up to 165 kW for the Enyaq 60 and a maximum of 175 kW for the Enyaq 85x. This means that the larger battery can be charged from 10 to 80 per cent in 28 minutes at DC fast-charging stations; the Enyaq 60 in just 24 minutes.

All models charge at up to 11 kW at AC charging stations. A new feature of the new Enyaq 85 and 85x models is bidirectional DC charging, allowing the Enyaq's battery to double as a supplementary energy storage unit for the home.

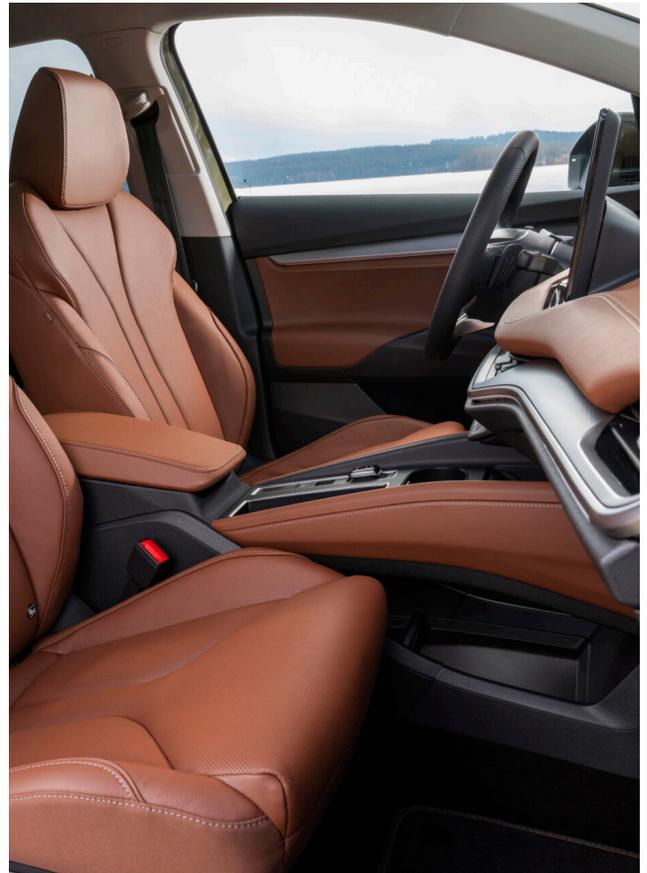
Sustainable Materials

In the interior, the new Škoda Enyaq offers six different Design Selections. Reflecting the new

Modern Solid design language, the entry Loft Design Selection features a combination of grey fabric and black artificial leather, and the optional Lodge Design Selection has a fresh, colourful appeal, with contrasting stitching and special seat belts in eye-catching orange.

The Lodge Design Selection showcases sustainable innovation with seat upholstery made from TechnoFil containing a 75% share of ECONYL® yarns, which are obtained from sources such as discarded fishing nets, fabric scraps from factories and old carpets. The remaining 25% is made up of polyester. The new optional Lounge Design Selection's predominantly dark grey upholstery features seat covers made of a combination of artificial leather and microsuede with new mint green contrasting stitching. In the optional Suite Black Design Selection, the seat covers consist of a black leather/artificial leather

The new electric model offers a fresh new take on technology, performance and environmental responsibility



mix with brown stitching. In the optional Suite Cognac Design Selection, the cognac-coloured leather is tanned using an eco friendly process that utilises olive leaf extracts. This enables the efficient use of leaf matter considered a waste material in other processing industries.

Simply Clever features

The new Škoda Enyaq introduces several new Simply Clever details to the series. Among them is the Enyaq debut of the QR code in the boot. Other notable Simply Clever features include a sustainable ice scraper with a tyre tread depth gauge integrated into the boot door panel, a sustainable umbrella in the driver's door compartment, and mobile phone pockets on the

backs of the front seats. The boot also offers two bag hooks and a retractable boot cover, which can be operated with a single touch.

Connectivity

The new Škoda Enyaq delivers state-of-the-art connectivity. The upgraded MyŠkoda app introduces several enhancements, including new functions. Powerpass is fully integrated into the app. Updates to the infotainment system such as a Heaters button further improve the user experience.

Abu Dhabi named host of 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize ceremony

The UAE capital is the first city in the Middle East to host the world's most prestigious architecture award, solidifying its role as a global cultural hub

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) has announced that Abu Dhabi will host the 2025 Pritzker Prize ceremony, marking a historic first for the UAE and the Middle East.

As the world's most esteemed recognition in the field of architecture, the Pritzker Architecture Prize honours living architects whose work demonstrates a combination of talent, vision, and commitment. Their contributions must show a consistent and significant impact on humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture.

Abu Dhabi's selection as the host city marks a new chapter in the UAE capital's cultural journey and further strengthens its role as a convening place for the world's leading creative thinkers. It reflects Abu Dhabi's exceptional and growing contribution to global architectural discourse, with a legacy of bold vision and cultural



investment that bridges heritage, innovation, and sustainability.

From the development and restoration of the Cultural Foundation to modern icons like Louvre Abu Dhabi, designed by Jean Nouvel (Pritzker Prize Laureate, 2008), the soon-to-open Zayed National Museum by Lord Norman Foster (Pritzker Prize Laureate, 1999), and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi by Frank Gehry (Pritzker Prize Laureate, 1989), the emirate has emerged as a global centre for transformative and meaningful architecture.

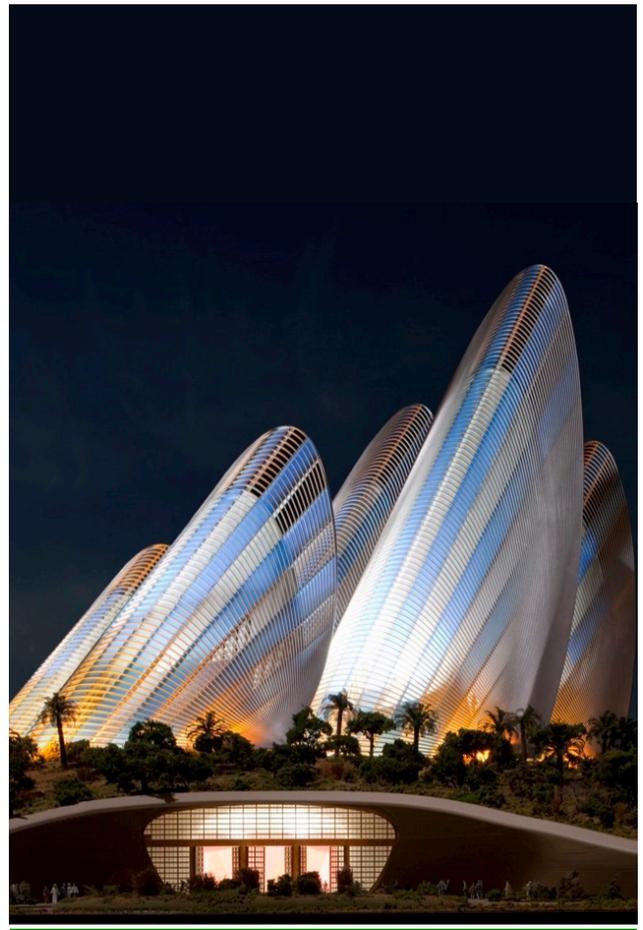
Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism — Abu Dhabi, said, “By hosting the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, DCT Abu Dhabi offers a platform for the exchange of ideas that will shape the cities of tomorrow. This reaffirms Abu Dhabi’s long-term vision to place creativity, dialogue, and sustainability at the heart of our development. We believe in architecture’s transformative power to shape communities and enrich lives.”

“Each year, the Pritzker Prize upholds a tradition of hosting the ceremony at architecturally and historically significant venues, ranging across millennia and geographies. In recent years, the UAE’s growing presence in the global arts and culture landscape, and openness in supporting the works of international architects provide a backdrop of newness, reflecting the diversity within our mission and the selection of our Laureates and Jurors,” explains Tom Pritzker, Chair of The Hyatt Foundation. “As three iconic buildings, each designed by Pritzker Laureates, Jean Nouvel, Norman Foster and Frank Gehry, redefine the skyline of this city, Abu Dhabi lends a natural extension to our programme.”

The event will coincide with a public panel discussion at the Cultural Foundation on 3 May, led by Liu Jiakun, the 2025 Pritzker Prize Laureate. He will be joined by fellow Laureates

The Pritzker Prize honors architects whose talent and vision create a lasting, positive impact on humanity and the built environment

Riken Yamamoto (2024), David Chipperfield (2023) and Francis Kéré (2022). Together, these leading voices will explore the role of architecture in celebrating cultural expression reflected in their own practices and the future of the built environment.





UAE to host inaugural Emirates Agriculture Conference and Exhibition 2025 in Al Ain

The conference will focus on sustainability, community agriculture, and climate change, alongside discussions on modern irrigation and biotechnology

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) has announced the launch of the inaugural Emirates Agriculture Conference and Exhibition 2025.

To be held from May 28- 31 at ADNEC Centre Al Ain, the event aligns with the nation's strategic vision to support the local agricultural sector and enhance its role in promoting sustainable national food security. The event is organised within the framework of the 'Plant the Emirates' National

Programme launched last year to support the UAE's agricultural development efforts and strengthen sustainable national food security. It encourages community engagement in various areas such as home gardening, cultivating key agricultural products, expanding green spaces, and promoting locally produced foods.

The programme also enhances environmental sustainability by reducing the carbon footprint through increased production and consumption of locally sourced fresh produce.

The event will convene officials and decision-

The event will convene global leaders and experts to address food security challenges and promote innovative agricultural solutions

makers from the UAE and around the world, alongside leaders from the local and international agricultural sectors and the private sector. It will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and innovative insights to strengthen the agricultural sector and support the transition from traditional agricultural systems to sustainable models that address global food security challenges.

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, stated that the UAE's leadership prioritises the development of the agricultural sector to achieve the goals of the National Food Security Strategy 2051. This commitment aims to strengthen sustainable national food security by adopting climate-smart, sustainable agricultural solutions.

She highlighted that the UAE, like many nations worldwide, faces agricultural challenges, particularly water scarcity and limited arable land. Addressing these challenges necessitates a shift from traditional agricultural systems to smart, technology-driven solutions.

Dr. Al Dahak underscored that the UAE has already implemented several advanced agricultural projects and aims to expand these projects to strengthen its position as a global hub for modern agricultural solutions.

The Emirates Agriculture Conference and Exhibition also offers a platform to showcase the finest local crops, including high-quality fruits and vegetables. The exhibition showcases the UAE's commitment to promoting key local crops, enhancing their market presence, and supporting farmers in increasing productivity.

A key highlight of the Emirates Agriculture Conference and Exhibition will be the inauguration of the First National Agricultural Extension Forum. The forum provides a unique opportunity

to learn from leading experts, connect with potential partners, and explore the latest advancements in agricultural technologies.

The Emirates Agriculture Conference and Exhibition will feature a comprehensive programme of specialised sessions and workshops, addressing themes of sustainability, community agriculture, food security, and climate change, alongside in-depth discussions on modern irrigation, agricultural waste management, biotechnology, vertical farming, and approaches to engage young people in the agricultural sector.



UAE launches groundbreaking project to survey, evaluate, and restore traditional oyster habitats

The first-of-its-kind initiative in the Arabian Gulf aims to expand oyster habitats, which naturally absorb carbon dioxide, while preserving marine ecosystems and cultural heritage

As part of its efforts to preserve marine habitats and ecosystems and protect cultural heritage, and within the framework of the Abu Dhabi Climate Change Strategy, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has launched a project to survey, evaluate, and restore traditional oyster habitats in the emirate.

The project, which is the first of its kind in the Arabian Gulf region, aims to reduce the effects of climate change and improve seawater quality by expanding the area of oyster habitats that help to absorb and store carbon dioxide from seawater during shell formation.



EAD's database will be enhanced via a comprehensive survey and assessment of traditional oyster beds to create a modern interactive digital map. The project also aims to increase environmental awareness about the importance of protecting and restoring marine habitats by involving school students under the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) to assemble the artificial reefs.

In the project's first phase, which focused on collecting data on traditional pearl diving sites, EAD was able to identify 335 diving sites using multiple scientific sources, including maps,

historical books, and the agency's database, as well as consultations with traditional fishermen in the emirate.

After completing the survey of the identified sites and assessing the status of their oysters, the EAD will begin formulating a plan to restore the degraded sites and design rigs using oyster shells produced at the Abu Dhabi Pearl Centre in the Mirfa area, while developing an updated

The project combines research and technology to map and restore degraded oyster beds and support scientific advancements in aquaculture and marine conservation



digital map of the current oyster habitats in the emirate.

In the second phase of the project, EAD completed evaluation of 150 traditional beds out of 335, discovered 200 new oyster habitats, and developed a plan to restore affected beds. Among the assessed sites, the agency selected Umm Al Salsal, a degraded traditional diving site near the eastern side of Marawah Island, for oyster restoration efforts.

As part of the oyster restoration plan, EAD designed, developed, and installed 64 differently shaped structures at Umm Al Salsal. Around 30 students from Al Marfa schools participating in the SSI helped assemble the structures made from sustainable materials, including oyster shells from the Abu Dhabi Pearl Centre. A monitoring plan is currently underway to assess the progress and success of the selected site for restoration.

Ahmed Al Hashemi, Executive Director of the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD, said, "We are keen to expand aquaculture activities in Abu Dhabi and, through the pearl oyster restoration project, we seek to harness its great benefits, such as enhancing biodiversity, supporting various marine species, and improving the health of the ecosystem in general. In addition, pearl oysters have historical and cultural significance to Abu Dhabi, and their restoration enhances this connection. Pearl oysters also contribute to water purification and help maintain the balance of marine ecosystems, which directly impacts environmental sustainability."

The EAD's future plans for the Pearl Oyster Restoration Project include a wide range of environmental, and community initiatives and will see a gradual expansion of restoration sites as initial efforts demonstrate success - identifying additional suitable sites and increasing the number of oysters being cultured and rehabilitated.



In the long term, these efforts may stimulate investment in scientific research to develop more efficient and effective restoration techniques, which may include genetic studies of pearl oysters, advanced breeding programmes, and innovative aquaculture techniques.

3rd EV Majlis drives sustainable mobility

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), in cooperation with UAEV - a joint venture between MoEI and Etihad Water and Electricity, hosted the 3rd EV Majlis, which drew the participation of leading global EV manufacturers.

Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at MoEI and Chairman of UAEV, headed the Majlis. He highlighted the latest developments in the EV ecosystem, including cutting-edge technologies and sustainable transport infrastructure policies.

Participants shared key challenges they face and

proposed solutions, such as aligning criteria and expanding EV charging network. They also shared their visions for accelerating the adoption of EVs, in line with the UAE's net-zero by 2050 target.

Al Olama underscored that the EV Majlis is a strategic platform that drives synergies between the public the private sectors to accelerate the shift to sustainable mobility.





SEE Holding partners with Micropolis to build AI-powered Sustainable City 2.0

UAE NEWS

SEE Holding, the company behind the globally recognised model of The Sustainable City, has announced a strategic partnership with UAE-based Micropolis, specialising in the design, and manufacturing of robotics and AI systems, to accelerate the integration of smart infrastructure within The Sustainable City 2.0 (TSC 2.0) – SEE Holding’s next-generation model that is AI-driven, net zero, and human-centric.

Unveiled in April 2024, TSC 2.0 is designed to think, adapt, and evolve. It weaves artificial intelligence and smart technologies into the fabric of the city, enabling dynamic, real-time optimisation of resources and systems. This intelligent ecosystem enhances efficiency across critical pillars such as food security, energy, water, waste management, and mobility, while also advancing wellbeing, health and innovation.

This partnership brings together The Sustainable City’s visionary approach to net zero living with Micropolis’s technological expertise of advanced

robotics platforms, AI-powered surveillance systems, smart mobility applications, and edge computing nodes. It is designed to enhance safety, optimise operations, and elevate the resident experience.

“With The Sustainable City 2.0, we are building an urban blueprint for a more intelligent, climate-resilient future,” said Faris Saeed, Chairman and CEO of SEE Holding. “Our strategic partnership with Micropolis will empower us to deliver seamless AI integration at the infrastructure level—creating smarter, more connected, and people-centric cities that reflect the needs of both current and future generations.”

For over a decade, The Sustainable City has set the global standard for climate-resilient urban living – achieving a 78% cut in emissions and 89% landfill diversion in Dubai. Celebrated as the GCC’s happiest community, the TSC 2.0 takes the vision further as a scalable, AI-powered blueprint for future cities.

Huế: The cradle of Vietnamese culture and tradition

Huế was ranked 8th among the world's top 25 cultural destinations in 2024

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GREEN CITY

In the heart of Vietnam, where history whispers from ancient citadels and royal tombs, a new story is unfolding in the city of Huế. Honored as Vietnam's first "National Green City" by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in 2016, Huế is proving that preserving the past and embracing a sustainable future can go hand in hand. This prestigious recognition came with a commitment: to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG)

emissions by 20% by 2020, compared to 2011 levels. A challenge Huế has met head-on with remarkable dedication.

Since then, Huế has embarked on a transformative journey, driven by seven specific action plans. These plans focus on everything from lush urban greening and the development of eco-friendly tourism to effective water and

The picturesque Huong River winds through the city and is one of the most prominent attractions in Hué



waste treatment, smart public lighting systems, and the adoption of renewable energy and environmentally friendly construction materials. The ambition is clear: to create a green, clean, bright, and waste-free urban area that serves as a model for other cities in Vietnam and beyond.

One of the most striking features of Hué is its abundance of greenery. Boasting the highest density of trees per street in the country – over 64,000 – the city is a verdant oasis. Along the banks of the serene Huong River, community-sharing bicycle stations offer a sustainable transportation solution, encouraging residents and visitors alike to explore the city at a slower,

more environmentally conscious pace.

But Hué is more than just a scenic destination. As the most intact ancient capital in Vietnam, it holds a unique position. Preserving its rich cultural heritage while navigating the challenges of modern development requires a delicate balancing act. Local authorities are committed to promoting economic growth while simultaneously safeguarding the city's unique culture and protecting its fragile ecological environment.

This commitment is particularly crucial as Hué faces increasing pressures from climate change, population growth, rapid urbanization, social inequality, and environmental degradation. However, the city is turning to its inherent strengths – its abundant parks, waterways, garden houses, and lakes – recognizing them as valuable Nature-based Solutions honed over centuries. These natural assets serve as a blueprint for sustainable urban development, demonstrating how cities can thrive in harmony with nature.

Recently, the "Hué – Plastic Smart City in Central Vietnam" project, funded by WWF Norway through WWF Vietnam, has been launched to tackle the growing problem of plastic waste. This innovative project utilizes the award-winning mGreen application, connecting sellers and collectors of recyclable waste directly. By incentivizing recycling through a points-based system, mGreen is empowering residents to actively participate in creating a cleaner city.

The goal was to cut plastic waste by 30% before 2024, with 70% of solid waste classified at source, collected, and treated. To fulfil this target, the city has enhanced public awareness



and sense of responsibility in protecting the environment and building a green city.

Huế's commitment to waste management extends beyond plastic. With support from various non-governmental projects and international organizations, the city has significantly increased the number of trash bins and clean water refilling stations throughout its streets, residential areas, and tourist attractions. These initiatives have not only improved waste treatment processes but have also fostered green habits and awareness within local communities.

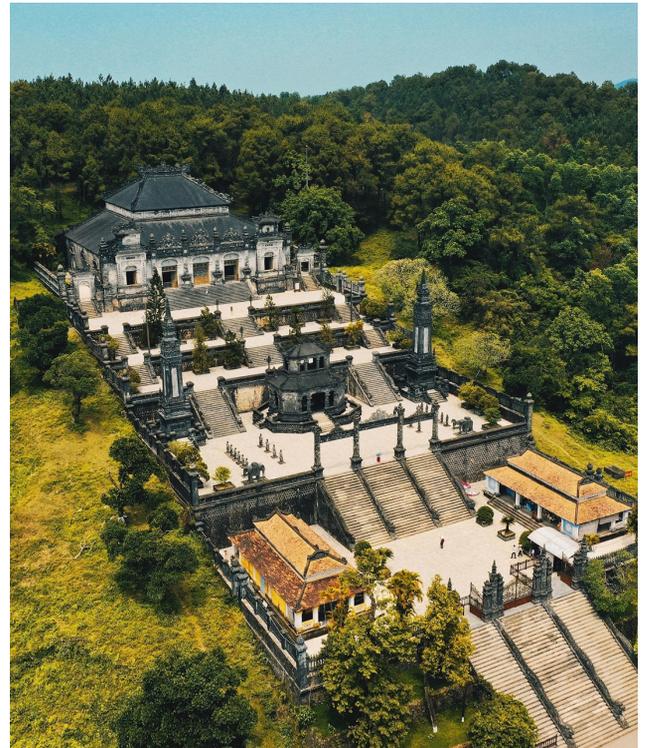
Looking ahead, Huế is leveraging its unique cultural heritage to attract visitors during Visit Vietnam Year 2025, anticipating a significant boost to the local tourism sector. As one of the few places in Southeast Asia with eight UNESCO-

recognized cultural heritage sites, Huế offers a wealth of historical and cultural experiences. From majestic palaces and citadels to elaborate royal tombs, the city is a living museum.

To enhance the visitor experience and improve connectivity, Huế is investing in infrastructure projects both in the city center and in surrounding areas. These projects include upgrading roads leading to Nguyen dynasty tombs, installing street lighting systems in newly incorporated communes and wards, and developing marine and lagoon tourism, as well as community-based tourism linked to local crafts, culinary experiences, cultural exploration, and wellness retreats.

Furthermore, Huế is embracing digital transformation, focusing on smart management, enhanced visitor experiences, and effective

Cultural and natural heritages are gold mines for Huê's tourism industry



promotion. By building a comprehensive system to digitize tourism data, the city aims to create a more seamless and engaging experience for visitors from across the world.

While its heritage undoubtedly gives Huê a competitive edge in tourism, the city recognizes the importance of using tourism revenue to support its cultural preservation efforts. The challenge lies in achieving a balanced approach, maximizing the potential of tourism while ensuring the long-term conservation of its cultural treasures.

Ultimately, Huê's vision is to build its image as a green destination, expanding tourism through sustainable initiatives such as bike stations,

electric sightseeing cars and buses, and the creation of a waste-reduction tourism model. By embracing sustainability and innovation, the city of Huê is not only preserving its past but also forging a vibrant and prosperous future for generations to come.





EU announces new €86 million investment in long- term climate and environment projects

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CLIMATE ACTION

The European Commission has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to improving climate resilience and water security with investments in new green strategic projects over the next 10 years

The funding supports projects aimed at accelerating efforts to help Europe become a climate-neutral continent by 2050

The European Commission has announced investments of €86 million in new Strategic Integrated Projects focusing on improving water quality and availability, cleaning up polluted rivers, improving fire and flood protection, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This funding will support projects awarded as part of the 2023 calls for proposals to help Europe become a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The selected projects are located in Denmark, Estonia, Poland, Slovenia and Iceland and will help national, regional and local authorities implement national and



European environmental and climate legislation.

They are expected to mobilise significant additional investment from other EU funding sources. This includes agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, in addition to national funds and private sector investment.

In Denmark, the LIFE ACT project brings together 27 municipalities to ramp up local climate action plans. Receiving €28.4 million in support (of which the EU will provide €17 million), it will reduce municipal CO₂ emissions by 75% and make 2,900 km of coastline more resilient to climate change by 2050.

In Estonia, the LIFE SIP WET-EST project focuses on improving water quality. With €29.9 million in support (of which the EU will provide €17.9 million), the project is future proofing the Western Estonian river basin by controlling pollution, restoring ecosystems and reducing risks from droughts and floods.

Poland is receiving a €21.9

million budget (of which the EU will provide €13.1 million) to tackle major recycling and landfill challenges in the Pomorskie Voivodeship region. 31 project partners, including the regional government, municipalities and universities, have set an ambitious 65% recycling target while aiming to cut landfill waste to 10% by 2035.

The LIFE4ADAPT project will help Slovenia better prepare for droughts, forest fires and floods, which have hit the country in recent years. The €26.5 million funding (of which the EU will provide €14.2 million) will help the country's Climate Service Centre and Climate Portal finance new ways of managing climate risks and launching educational programmes.

In Iceland, the LIFE ICEWATER project unites government agencies, researchers and municipalities to enhance water quality. With €39.6 million in support (of which the EU will provide €23.8 million), the project promotes



sustainable water use and reduces pressure on vital resources.

The Commission also adopted the work programme for the implementation of the LIFE Programme in 2025-2027. It sets out key strategies, actions and funding opportunities with the aim to drive Europe's transition to a clean, circular, competitive and climate-resilient economy. The work programme establishes an overall budget of €2.3 billion for projects tackling circular economy, zero pollution, nature and biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, and clean energy.

The LIFE Programme is the only EU funding programme entirely dedicated to environmental, climate and energy objectives. It has co-financed more than 6,000 projects since 1992 across the EU and associated countries.

6.6% increase in wildlife reserves across GCC countries

The latest statistics issued by the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) indicate a 6.6% increase in the area of terrestrial reserves across GCC countries in 2023, reaching 390.5 thousand

sq kms, compared to 366.5 thousand sq kms in the previous year.

Additionally, the area of mountain reserves established in the Sultanate of Oman, the UAE, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia increased from 9.5 thousand sq kms in 1996 to 14.7 thousand sq kms in 2022 collectively.

According to the statistics published in the March 2025 bulletin, the cumulative area of nature reserves in the GCC recorded a notable leap in 2020, reaching 352.6 thousand sq kms compared to 111.4 thousand sq kms in 2015.

GCC countries have long prioritised wildlife conservation. In 1985, the GCC Environmental and Wildlife Award was introduced, followed by the launch of the Green Gulf Initiative for Environment and Sustainable Development in 2007.

All GCC states joined the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, and in 2012, they acceded to the CITES agreement, which entered into force. In 2016, the GCC Environmental Web Portal was launched to support biodiversity monitoring across the region.



Egypt prioritizes sustainability in its tourism growth strategy

TOURISM

Yomna Elbahar, Vice Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt, emphasised that sustainability is a core pillar of the ministry's strategy to double the number of international tourists visiting Egypt without negatively impacting the country's natural resources or heritage sites.

Speaking on the sidelines of the AIM Congress in Abu Dhabi, Elbahar stated that the ministry has implemented measures to protect the environment, including mandating "green" certification for hotels and diving centres in South Sinai and the Red Sea governorates, ensuring adherence to water, energy, and waste management standards. Over a third of Egypt's hotels have already obtained this certification.

Elbahar revealed plans, in collaboration with relevant ministries and entities, to create a "central bank for tourism investment opportunities" as a digital platform showcasing available investment prospects in the sector. This

initiative aims to enhance transparency and facilitate access to information for investors to identify potential projects in real-time.

The ministry is currently undertaking two major projects to transform Sharm El Sheikh and Hurghada into environmentally friendly tourist destinations. It has also adopted a public-private partnership policy to deliver world-class tourism services within archaeological sites and museums, enhancing their sustainability and service quality.

Elbahar noted cooperation with international organisations such as the UNDP, USAID, and UNESCO's Cairo office to protect archaeological sites and adopt renewable energy solutions in museums and tourism facilities. She revealed that some archaeological sites are equipped with climate change monitoring devices, and the Grand Egyptian Museum has received ISO quality and environmental management certifications.

Word Scramble

NECASO
 RSTFFENAOTAOI
 AINTSUS
 CLATEIM
 ITUJEC
 SLREDEA
 OTFITSAD EORNE
 IOLYCP

ANSWERS: 1) CLIMATE 2) JUSTICE 3) SUSTAIN 4) DEFORESTATION 5) AFFORESTATION 6) POLICY 7) LEADERS 8) OCEANS

Word Search

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

- ORGANIC
- REUSE
- SOLAR
- LANDFILL
- CARBON
- ATMOSPHERE
- DESERT
- OCEANS
- OASIS
- RECYCLE
- POLLUTION
- HABITAT
- GREENERY
- CLIMATE
- ECOSYSTEM

Crossword Puzzle



Across

4. The solid surface of the Earth
5. Manmade structure that blocks a river. Used to harness hydroelectric power
6. The amount of water in the air
8. That can be used again and again
9. Visible air pollution

Down

1. Chemical products used in agriculture for killing insects
2. Used to measure the air pressure in the area
3. An organism that breaks down dead things
7. Excess water in areas that can cause severe damage

ANSWERS: 1) PESTICIDES 2) BAROMETER 3) DECOMPOSER 4) CRUST 5) DAM 6) HUMIDITY 7) FLOODS
 8) REUSABLE 9) SMOG

★ WORD OF THE DAY:

SPECIES REINTRODUCTION

Species reintroduction is the deliberate release of a species into the wild, from captivity or other areas where the organism is capable of survival. The goal is to establish a healthy, genetically diverse, self-sustaining population to an area where it has been extirpated, or to augment an existing population. Species that may be eligible for reintroduction are typically threatened or endangered in the wild.

There are a variety of approaches to species reintroduction. The optimal strategy will depend on the biology of the organism. The first matter to address when beginning a species reintroduction is whether to source individuals in situ, from wild populations, or ex situ, from captivity in a zoo or botanic garden, for example.

In situ sourcing means moving animals or plants from a wild population to a place where the species used to live but has disappeared. This approach is usually better than using individuals raised in captivity, since bringing captive animals or plants back into the wild can be risky. To give the reintroduced population the best chance of surviving and thriving, it is important to choose individuals from wild populations that are similar in genetics and environment to the area where they'll be released.

One consideration for in situ sourcing is at which life stage the organisms should be collected, transported, and reintroduced. For instance, with plants, it is often ideal to transport them as seeds as they have the best chance of surviving translocation at this stage.

Ex situ sourcing involves storing parts of a species—like seeds, sperm, eggs, or tissues—for future reintroduction into the wild. These can be kept in places like seed banks or through methods like freezing and tissue culture. These techniques help preserve genetic diversity by storing many individuals, and most stored materials can last a long time. However, some species don't survive well in storage, and



methods like tissue culture and freezing only work well for a few species so far.

Some organisms are also kept alive in captivity, such as in zoos or botanical gardens. This is more expensive than storing seeds or genetic material, so only a small number of individuals can be kept this way.



ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY - MAY 16

We live in a world full of many animals, insects, plants, and creatures that are approaching risk of extinction – or are so close to extinction – that their species need help immediately.

When a species is defined as endangered, its numbers are unusually low – in the last few thousands, hundreds, or even tens. And when the last of the species is gone, they are gone for good.

This day was created to keep us aware of how fragile the existence of some animals, plants, and insects is – and, most importantly, reminds us to take the time to learn about why it's so important to protect endangered species from any further harm.

Every year on the third Friday in May, thousands of people around the world participate in Endangered Species Day by celebrating, learning about, and taking action to protect threatened and endangered species. This global day of action and celebration was created and founded by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006.

On Endangered Species Day 2025, wildlife refuges, gardens, schools, libraries, museums, community groups, nonprofits, and individuals will hold special programs or events. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature decides the status of 'endangered'. According to the IUCN, at least 40% of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction across the world.

MAY
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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

As the global community is called to re-examine our relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy. This involves respecting, protecting, and repairing our biological wealth.

Biological diversity is often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms, but it also includes genetic differences within each species — for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock — and the variety of ecosystems (lakes, forest, deserts, agricultural landscapes) that host multiple kind of interactions among their members (humans, plants, animals).

Biological diversity resources are the pillars upon which we build civilizations. Fish provide 20 per cent of animal protein to about 3 billion people. Over 80 per cent of the human diet is provided by plants.



But loss of biodiversity threatens all, including our health. This International Day for Biological Diversity, under the theme "Harmony with nature and sustainable development", highlights how this plan for nature connects with the SDGs, showing that both agendas must advance together as they support one another.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- Grow a plant at home! _ _ _
- Volunteer for a cleanup drive _ _ _ _ _
- Reuse both sides of paper! _ _ _
- Recycle your waste _ _ _ _ _
- Carry reusable bags! _ _ _

COLOUR ME!





EAD, Emirates Nature-WWF launch 5-year citizen science strategy

UAE NEWS

As part of the Year of the Community, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Emirates Nature-WWF, the founding partners of the Connect with Nature programme, announced the launch of a new 5-year strategy (2025-2029). The strategy aims to empower a new generation of young leaders in environmental conservation by promoting Citizen Science.

The new strategy builds on the tremendous success of the Connect with Nature programme, which has reached more than 2.5 million youth since its launch in 2019. It connects youth with nature and provides students in public and private schools in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Al Dhafra region with the opportunity to participate in field activities that promote environmental conservation and Citizen Science.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary-General of EAD, said: “By integrating Citizen Science and practical experiences in environmental conservation into school programs and activities, we are working to create an ecosystem that combines knowledge and action to achieve a green economy, in line with the UAE Vision 2030.

Our partnership with Emirates Nature-WWF provides an opportunity to strategically expand the scope of the program, ensuring that our combined efforts and cooperation protect our natural heritage and advance a green and sustainable future for future generations.”

The new Connect with Nature Field Trip Series for schools will accommodate 2,000 students annually, offering participants a unique opportunity to work alongside conservationists and environmental experts as citizen scientists.

From venturing into muddy mangroves to measure the growth of new saplings to kayaking across vibrant coastal areas and shaping environmental policies, these field trips inspire a deeper appreciation for nature while also contributing to conservation impact.

The Connect with Nature Field Trips Series is open to students aged 9 to 18 across public and private schools in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Al Dhafra Region. For more information, visit: <https://connectwithnature.ae/schools>

UNEP concludes nominations for 2025 Champions of the Earth award

The Champions of the Earth award recognizes those who are accelerating progress and inspiring action

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has concluded nominations for the annual Champions of the Earth award, the UN's highest environmental honour, which recognizes outstanding leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector for their transformative impact on the environment.

This year, UNEP seeks nominations of individuals, organisations, and governments developing and implementing innovative and sustainable solutions and policies that drive climate action and deliver positive benefits to people's health and well-being. This year's awards will focus on solutions for methane, buildings and construction, sustainable cooling, including energy efficiency, clean air, and forests.

A decisive year for climate action

2025 is a critical year for climate action, as governments submit a third round of five-year



nationally determined contributions (NDCs) ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Belem (COP30). 2025 will also mark the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement.

Without intensified efforts, current projections show that global temperatures could rise by 2.6–3.1°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. While this is a marked improvement from the 5°C increase projected in 2010, the world remains far from the 1.5°C goal.

Sustainable cooling protects people from rising temperatures, maintains food quality and safety, and keeps vaccines stable and economies productive. Action on methane can improve air quality, stop energy waste, and strengthen food security— all the while creating jobs through methane mitigation efforts and delivering hundreds of billions of dollars in direct economic benefits.

Improving air quality prevents premature deaths, improves health, reduces healthcare costs, drives economic development, and mitigates climate change. Restoring forest ecosystems improves water resources and reduces natural disasters, while investing in climate-resilient buildings cuts emissions and protects people from extreme weather events. Solutions to climate change can boost economic growth – transitioning to net zero by 2050 could drive global GDP 7% higher than current policies.

The Champions of the Earth award recognizes those who are accelerating progress and inspiring action. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Champions of the Earth awards; since its inception in 2005, UNEP has recognized 122 laureates, including 28 world leaders, 74 individuals, and 20 organizations.

Individuals, organizations, and government entities have been nominated under the categories of Policy Leadership, Inspiration and

The Champions of the Earth will be announced in late 2025

Action, Entrepreneurial Vision, and Science and Innovation. The Champions of the Earth will be announced in late 2025.

Previous Champions of the Earth

In 2024, UNEP recognized individuals and organizations developing and implementing sustainable policies and solutions to restore land, enhance drought resilience, and combat desertification. UNEP's 2024 Champions of the Earth were: Sonia Guajajara, Brazil's Minister of Indigenous Peoples; Amy Bowers Cordalis, Indigenous rights advocate; Gabriel Paun, Romanian environmental defender; Lu Qi, a Chinese scientist; Madhav Gadgil, Indian ecologist; and SEKEM, a sustainable agriculture initiative.



Silal launches Innovation Oasis to boost UAE food security through AgriTech

The new research and development facility will focus on climate-resilient farming, resource-efficient food production, and developing the next generation of AgriTech leaders

Innovation Oasis (iO), a research and development facility specialising in agricultural technology, and developed by Silal, was recently inaugurated in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Ain Region. iO aims to support national efforts to advance sustainable farming practices and strengthen the UAE's food security, in line with the objectives of the National Food Security Strategy 2051.

H.H. Sheikh Hazza also witnessed the inauguration of the Advance AgriTech Academy, established to develop the UAE's next generation of AgriTech leaders and offering specialised programmes in career guidance and practical training, in collaboration with global research institutions, to equip Emirati talent with the skills and capabilities required to drive innovation in food and agriculture.

At the event, a cooperation agreement was also



signed between Silal and the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) to strengthen collaboration in advancing agricultural research and innovation, including offering five scholarships to empower students from the College of Agriculture at UAEU in the field of agricultural sustainability and food security, supporting academic excellence and talent.

H.H. Sheikh Hazza affirmed that investing in agritech research is a national strategic priority aimed at advancing sustainable local production, harnessing advanced technologies, supporting innovation and building a knowledge-driven economy. Sheikh Hazza further emphasised the importance of strengthening the food supply chains and addressing regional and global future food security challenges.

Salmeen Obaid Alameri, CEO of Silal, said: "Innovation Oasis (iO) is redefining the future of agri-food in the UAE. By harnessing advanced technologies and fostering strategic partnerships, we are strengthening the resilience and sustainability of our food system. With a strong focus on research, innovation, and knowledge transfer, we are not only driving progress but also positioning the UAE at the forefront of global agritech solutions. Additionally, the launch of the iO Advance AgriTech Academy further reinforces our commitment to developing local talent, ensuring that the UAE remains a global leader in agricultural innovation."

Spanning over 300,000 square metres, iO is a dynamic ecosystem designed to foster collaboration among researchers, industry leaders, startups and academics. The facility is an incubator for agritech innovations, focusing on climate-resilient farming, optimised controlled environment agriculture, and resource-efficient food production.

Equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, growth chambers, and phenotyping and

The 300,000 sq m Innovation Oasis is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, growth chambers, and phenotyping and experimental facilities, including greenhouses, net-houses, and open-field research plots

experimental facilities, including greenhouses, net-houses, and open-field research plots, iO will provide an advanced platform for developing and testing various agritech solutions.

Key focus areas include climate-resilient farming techniques to address the extreme temperatures of the UAE, water-food-energy solutions integrating solar thermal desalination, IoT-enabled precision agriculture, and saltwater-resistant crops. Additionally, AI-driven food systems will also be explored at the facility, leveraging machine learning, robotics and data analytics to enhance farm management and post-harvest technologies, improving supply chain efficiency and minimising food waste.





Green AI: A sustainable future for Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Foundation
for the Environment

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GREEN FLASH

According to *Climate Action*, in February 2025, at the AI Action Summit in Paris, 61 countries, the European Union, and the African Union Commission signed a Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable AI for People and the Planet. This commitment acknowledges the rapidly evolving landscape of AI and its integration into every facet of modern life, shedding light on its ethical and environmental challenges.

Investment in AI is growing in both the public and private sectors. The European Union alone has launched an initiative to mobilise 200 billion euros for investment in AI. Hence, concerns are being raised about AI's environmental impact. Last month, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment held a webinar discussing AI's role in raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainability.

Such growing concerns about AI and its impact on the environment have led to the rise of "Green AI." This approach prioritizes designing, developing, and deploying AI systems that minimize energy consumption and carbon footprint, ensuring that technological progress doesn't devastate our planet and its ecosystems.

Traditional AI models consume a lot of energy. Training a single large AI model can emit as much carbon dioxide as 5 cars over their lifetimes, and if powered by fossil fuels, this significantly contributes to global warming. Green AI reverses this trend by prioritizing energy efficiency. Researchers are creating algorithms that achieve high performance with less energy and data.

This shift promotes sustainable practices like model optimization, energy-efficient hardware, and the use of renewable energy in data centers.

A key approach in Green AI is model compression, which reduces the size of neural networks while maintaining their accuracy. Another technique is federated learning, which allows training across decentralized devices, reducing the need for central servers and massive data transfers. Benchmarking tools now consider environmental costs alongside accuracy, encouraging greener alternatives.

Green AI also champions transparency and accountability by documenting the environmental cost of AI systems. Researchers can make informed decisions about performance and sustainability trade-offs. "AI nutrition labels" even disclose energy use, carbon emissions, and hardware specifications.

Governments, tech companies, and academic institutions all have a crucial role. Regulations and incentives can encourage sustainable AI practices, while cross-sector collaboration drives innovation in eco-friendly technologies.

Green AI is a necessary evolution, ensuring that as we push AI's boundaries, we also safeguard the natural world.

Let's unite to build a sustainable future for Artificial Intelligence!

Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home



THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment