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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



Zayed Foundation organises the
1st Dubai International Forum
on Sustainable Lifestyles in
cooperation with UNEP

'The UAE's Vision 2021 plans clearly show commitment to deal with present and future environmental challenges'



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Chairman's Message



From the food we eat to what we buy to the way we get around, it is the choices we make in our daily lives that define our lifestyles. Just as we consume a significant portion of the earth's natural resources through our lifestyle choices, we also waste a hugely disproportionate share of the earth's bounty through our lack of awareness and efficiency.

If humanity is a major part of the problem, it could also be a major part of the solution by enabling the transition to a sustainable lifestyle. This was one of the key points highlighted at the 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles that concluded recently. Held in tandem with the celebrations of the UAE's 18th National Environment Day, commemorated on February 4 each year, and organized by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in partnership with UNEP, the Forum sought to explore opportunities for the development of practices that enable individuals to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

Creating a sustainable lifestyle takes a lifelong commitment – to learning, experimenting, exploring, re-thinking our ways of living and above all, committing to increasingly sustainable practices.

While speakers on the discussion panels spoke about how all our choices and actions - whether at home or at work - on energy use, transport, food, waste and communication – contribute to sustainable lifestyles, the audience was also introduced to innovative and best practices adopted in cities such as Barcelona, London and Kathmandu, amongst others.

Unsustainable patterns of consumption impact on the world around us creating challenges like climate change, waste generation, air pollution and water shortages, to list just a few. If we are to achieve continuous economic growth and easy social life in a clean and safe environment, we have to adopt sustainability as a lifestyle influencing all our daily practices.

The interactions and conversations at the 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles were both educative and enriching and it drove home the fact that the time to make the switch to a more sustainable life is now.

I would like to thank the UNEP, Ministry of Environment & Water, the enlightened participants and the Zayed Foundation team for a successful event.

Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

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From the Managing Editor



Dr. Meshgan Al Awar
Secretary General
Zayed International Prize for
the Environment

It was a proud moment for all of us at the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment as the 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles kicked off on 25th February in the presence of high-level representatives from the government and the private sector, international experts, academics, and practitioners from around the globe in a bid to build momentum for a shift to sustainable lifestyles.

Organized by the Zayed Foundation in partnership with the UN and the UAE Ministry of Environment & Water, this initiative is a prime example of the Zayed Foundation's commitment to support the vision of the nation's leaders in making the UAE one of the leading countries in the field of green economy.

Held in tandem with the celebrations of the UAE's 18th National Environment Day, through this initiative the Zayed Foundation continues to build on its heritage in serving as a strong link between local and international organizations to implement strong environmental programs at the regional and international levels.

It is also fitting that the Forum, which came up with new concepts and mechanisms for achieving sustainability was held in 2015 which has been declared a Year of Innovation by the UAE President H.H. Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The ultimate goal of this forum has been to turn sustainability into a dominating culture, by rethinking our ways of living, how we buy, what we consume and how we organize our daily lives. It is about transforming our societies and living in balance with our natural environment.

The UAE's green plans and actions have moved the nation into the front row of leading countries adopting Green Economy, a fact that was acknowledged by several experts at the Forum. For the Zayed Foundation, another feather was lodged in its cap when the UNEP Executive Director, in his opening address, commended the Zayed Foundation for being a world advocate for change, and a champion and leader enabling the transition from our current consumption and production patterns to a more sustainable model.

It is my sincere hope that initiatives like these will open the door for further cooperation and joint efforts to achieve common goals of sustainable development and low-carbon societies.

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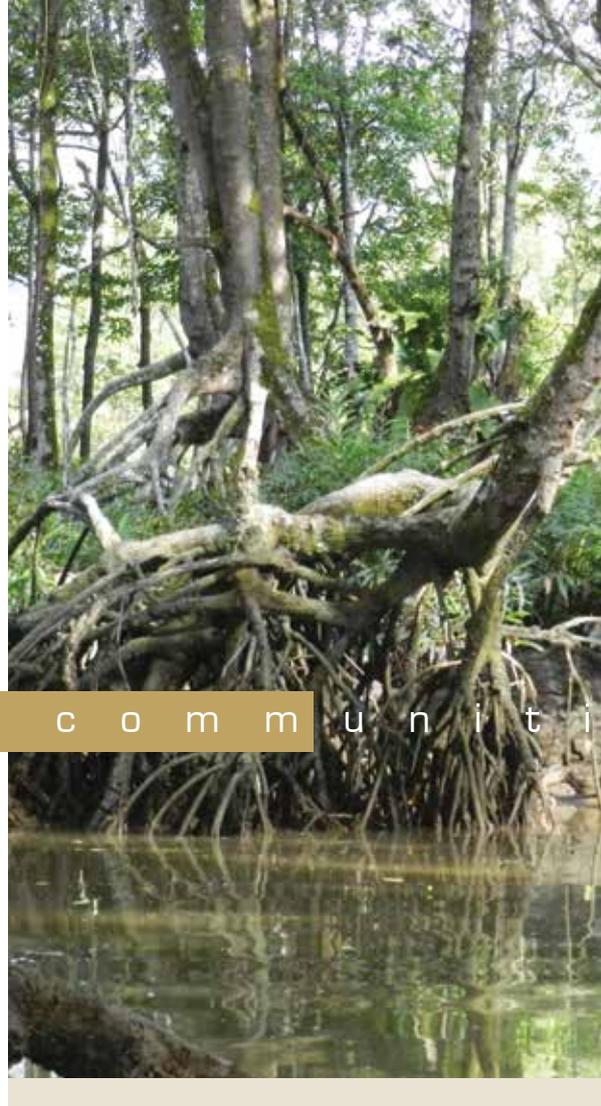
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UAE marks World Wetlands Day on Feb 2



World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February to help raise public awareness about the importance and value of wetlands.

The UAE joined the international community in observing the World Wetlands Day which falls on February 2.

This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The World Wetlands Day 2015 is being held under the theme 'Wetlands for Our Future - Join us!'

Dr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water, said in a statement to mark the day that the concerned authorities in the UAE were making tremendous efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity in general and terrestrial and marine protected areas, and wetlands in particular. He indicated that collective national plans would have a positive

impact on these ecosystems and their economic value and services as well as their economic, social and environmental benefits.

He noted that these efforts had paid off and helped the UAE's biodiversity and habitat to advance in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) rankings from 33rd to 15th place between 2012 and 2014.

He added that five wetlands in the UAE have been designated as sites of international importance by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) since it became a member in 2007. The five wetlands have a total surface area of more than 20,000 hectares.

Ramsar is an intergovernmental

treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary in Dubai became the first UAE wetland to be named by Ramsar as a site of international importance. Later, Wadi Wurayah National Park in Fujairah, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve in Abu Dhabi and the Mangrove Protected Area in Khor Kalba, Sharjah, were added to the Ramsar list.

He said that the National Strategy for Biodiversity and National Strategy Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Environments, both developed by the ministry in partnership with other stakeholders, would play a significant role in the development, conservation



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LATEST RESEARCH SHOWS that 64% of wetlands worldwide have been lost since 1900, and that 76% of populations of freshwater plants and animals have disappeared in the last 40 years alone.

and protection of these wetlands in order to adapt to human and natural challenges by 2021.

The minister said the UAE in November 2014 launched two innovative initiatives UAE Smart Map of Natural Capital and the National Program of Sustainable Wildlife initiative to promote efforts to protect the UAE's ecosystems and achieve national strategies concerning biodiversity, the marina and coastal sustainability and stem desertification in consistence with the UAE Vision 2021.

UAE wins bid to host Ramsar conference in 2018

The UAE has won the bid to host the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention in 2018.

The UAE's winning bid was presented during Ramsar's 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC48) which was concluded on 30 January in Gland, Switzerland.

At the meeting in Switzerland, the UAE's delegation, led by Director-General of Fujairah Municipality, Mohammed Saif Al Afkham, officially presented the UAE's detailed bid to host the 2018 conference.

China was the major Asian rival of the UAE's bid which emerged more convincing.

The state parties meet every three years at the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) and this year, 2015, Uruguay will host the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP12) in summer 2015.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".

In a letter to the UAE Minister of Environment and Water, Dr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, Christopher Briggs, thanked the UAE for its support to the organisation and for its international presence.

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Briggs expected the 2018 meeting to be a success due to the UAE's good reputation and leadership in the Arab region and the rest of the world.

Wetlands for Our Future

Latest research shows that 64% of wetlands worldwide have been lost since 1900, and that 76% of populations of freshwater plants and animals have disappeared in the last 40 years alone (according to the WWF's Living Planet report), which is worse than any other ecosystem. To combat the downward global trends in loss and degradation of wetlands, Ramsar works with governments and conservation organisations as well as bringing in private sector and scientific expertise.

"Wetlands for our future" - this year's theme for World Wetlands Day -

seeks to highlight the varieties of ways in which wetlands provide for us all, and the many ways that we can all contribute to their conservation and restoration.

Too few people realize the numerous services and benefits wetlands provide and their importance for humans and the planet. Most importantly, wetlands are the source of our daily water.

Additionally wetlands feed humanity. Rice, grown in wetland paddies, is the staple diet of nearly three billion people.

The average human consumes 19 kg of fish each year. And most of the fish sold, breed and raise their young in coastal waters and estuaries. Moreover, 70% of all fresh water extracted globally is used for crop irrigation.

Wetlands purify and filter harmful waste from water, helping to absorb harmful fertilizers and pesticides, as well as heavy metals and toxins from industry. As an example, the Nakivubo Swamp in Kampala, Uganda filters sewage and industrial effluents for free; a treatment plant to do the same job would cost \$2 million per year.

Wetlands act as nature's shock absorbers. Peatlands and wet grasslands in river basins act as natural sponges, absorbing rainfall, creating wide surface pools that ease any flooding in rivers. The same storage capacity will also safeguard against the impact of drought.

Wetlands provide sustainable livelihoods and products: 61.8 million people depend directly on fishing and fisheries for a living. Timber

Wetlands purify and replenish our water, and provide the fish and rice that feed billions. They act as a natural sponge against flooding and drought, and protect our coastlines.



for building, vegetable oil, medicinal plants, animal fodder, and stems and leaves for weaving also comes from our wetlands.

And importantly for our future, wetlands help to fight climate change. Peatlands alone store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined, and in the face of rising sea levels, coastal wetlands reduce the impact of hurricanes and tsunamis. They also bind the shoreline and resist erosion.

Speaking from the banks of the Rhône in Geneva, a Ramsar site of international importance, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, Dr. Christopher Briggs, said: "We have a fantastic opportunity with the restoration of wetlands to build a groundswell of opinion and involve

thousands of enthusiastic, concerned individuals who want to make a difference. We can achieve great things if we work together. I love to spend time in any wetland and so do millions of others, and we have a duty to keep our rivers, lakes, sandy beaches and blue seas in the state that we want our grandchildren to enjoy."

"Wetlands provide services worth an estimated \$15 trillion worldwide - including food, water, and climate regulation - demonstrating just how vital they are to humans and the environment alike and highlighting the need to conserve them. At the same time, the economic cost of the destruction of carbon-rich mangroves, which are being cleared three to five times faster than terrestrial forests, is at \$42 billion in economic damages

annually," said Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN Environment Programme Executive Director.

"The Ramsar Convention has further helped bring a shift in thinking, from the perception that wetlands are unproductive and valueless to an understanding that wetlands supply multiple values to society. There are now 2,186 designated Ramsar sites covering over two million hectares across the globe, but further challenges lie ahead as development continues to encroach on these crucial ecosystems," he added. "World Wetlands Day shines greater light on the challenges still faced by wetlands - which have a key role to play in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda - and the communities who depend on them."

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UAE's first electric vehicle charging station opens in Dubai

With the aim to create a more energy efficient Dubai, DEWA has inaugurated the emirate's first electric vehicle charging station; plan to establish 100 charging stations in 2015.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, has inaugurated the first electric vehicle charging station in Dubai, at Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's (DEWA's) main office.

The ceremony, held on 25th February, 2015 was attended by HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, HE Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), HE Ahmed Bin Byat, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Du, HE Ahmed Butti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Abdullah Kalban, MD & CEO of Emirates Global Aluminium, Abdullah Abdel Kareem, Director General of the Department of Oil Affairs, Dr. Aisha Butti Bin

Bishr, Assistant Director-General at the Executive Office of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Ali Shahdoor, Deputy Chief Editor of Al Bayan, Sami Al Reyami, Editor-in-Chief of Emarat Al Youm, and senior officials from the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and DEWA.

The move supports the Smart Dubai initiative, launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the happiest city on earth that provides the most efficient and seamless experience and is the safest place for residents and visitors.

"By transforming Dubai into the smartest city in the world, we aim

to make our society happier and provide smart, instant, and seamless services that are available anytime, anywhere. Dubai has all the elements to be a global leader in sustainability, competitiveness, and green economy," said Al Tayer.

"This station is an important step towards achieving the objectives of the sustainable smart city and transforming Dubai into the smartest city in the world. It also supports the Dubai Plan 2021 and the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030 to establish Dubai as a global hub for trade, finance, tourism, and sustainability, and a global role model of the highest standards of energy efficiency.

"One of the main factors for the success of smart cities is to provide



TWELVE STATIONS HAVE been installed at DEWA's centres, which can charge 24 vehicles simultaneously.

a smart environment that rationally and sustainably uses resources in an innovative way, by adopting state-of-the-art technologies. DEWA has developed a comprehensive strategy for smart grids. Currently, DEWA is implementing three main initiatives. These are connecting solar energy to houses and buildings, smart applications through smart meters and grids, and the infrastructure for vehicle charging stations. DEWA has started implementing the electric vehicle charging station infrastructure initiative," added Al Tayer.

"This pioneering initiative will greatly support DEWA's efforts to reduce the carbon footprint, protect the environment, and drive Dubai's sustainable development forward. We are confident this project will have the full support of Dubai residents

as well as government and private organisations," concluded Al Tayer.

"DEWA's inauguration of the first electric vehicle charging station in Dubai is a major step towards achieving the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the directives of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to make Dubai the smartest city in the world.

"This initiative supports the Smart City objectives of our strategy and will significantly improve the public's perception about this vehicle technology and encourage its uptake in Dubai. We are confident that inaugurating the station today will have a great impact on supporting

efforts to make Dubai a smart city," said Dr. Bishr.

"The inauguration of the first electric vehicle charging station in Dubai is a momentous occasion for Dubai and we were honoured to be present with the BMW i3, the first electric car that has zero emissions. We launched the BMW i8 hybrid sports car last year in Dubai, which has been well-received, so we look forward to continuing our dialogue with DEWA to assess the potential to sell the i3 in Dubai," said Stathis Stathis, Managing Director of AGMC.

DEWA's third initiative includes building the infrastructure needed to introduce electric vehicles in the Emirate, and establishing 100 charging stations in 2015. DEWA is collaborating with a number of

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national and private organisations to implement this leading project. These include car manufacturers, national airports, shopping malls, petrol stations, Dubai Municipality, RTA, hotels, and owners and operators of parking lots in Dubai. DEWA is also working with real estate developers, including Emaar and Nakheel, to determine the most appropriate sites to set up electric vehicle charging stations across Dubai.

The first phase of the project includes installing 16 charging stations for public use. Each station can accommodate two vehicles at the same time. Twelve stations have been installed at DEWA's centres, which can charge 24 vehicles simultaneously. These stations are at DEWA's head office, the Sustainable Building, Al Wasl, Al Hudaiba, Burj

Nahar, Umm Ramool, and Jebel Ali. These stations have been installed and are ready for use. One station has been installed in Dubai Silicon Oasis with another and two more due in Dubai Design District (D3) by March 2015.

During phase two of the project, 84 charging stations of different types will be installed across Dubai. These include fast, public, and home charging stations. They will be installed at Dubai Airports, Dubai Municipality, RTA, and other locations such as shopping malls, petrol stations, hotels, and parking areas, among. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

DEWA will build three types of electric vehicle charging stations that are compatible with the latest international technologies used

in electric vehicles. Fast charging stations that take 30 minutes will be available in petrol stations. The other two types include charging stations that take 4 hours, and 6-8 hours, respectively. The setting up of the three types will be based on recommendations by the project's consultants.





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Waste Free Environment campaign raises awareness of irresponsible disposal of waste

More than 2,000 people, including school and university students and companies employees in the Western Region in Abu Dhabi, joined hands in cleaning-up Shweihat beach at Jebel Dhanna near Ruwais on 24 February 2015. The drive was part of the 'Waste Free Environment' campaign jointly organised by Borouge, a leading provider of innovative, value creating plastics solutions, and FERTIL – companies within the ADNOC Group of Companies.

The 'Waste Free Environment' campaign is an annual event held simultaneously across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait. It aims to educate the public and stakeholders about the need to preserve the environment and stop the irresponsible disposal of waste.

"Through this environmental campaign we highlight the dangers of litter left out in deserts and on beaches, harming the nature and the marine life," said Abdulaziz Alhajri, CEO Abu Dhabi Polymers Company (Borouge).

"Holding this campaign in Ruwais and Abu Dhabi city reflects our strong commitment and contribution to protect our environment where we live and work and encourage the responsible disposal of waste and recycling of plastics."

"Awakening public consciousness about the consequences of littering, Borouge seeks to underline the importance of public awareness and engagement in waste reduction, waste collection and waste recycling," said Philippe Roodhooft, Chief

Operating Officer, Borouge. "It's very significant to involve all our employees, engineers, technicians and labourers in this environmental campaign to boost their sense of responsibility and commitment towards their surrounding environment and to make them real ambassadors of this challenge."

Mechanical recycling is considered to be the most effective and sustainable solution for managing plastic waste. Abu Dhabi already has a recycling plant in Al Ain that has the capacity to recycle 50 tonnes of high density polyethylene (HDPE) and low density polyethylene (LDPE) plastics daily.

Quality recycled plastics from this plant are used to manufacture a broad range of useful products such as rigid plastic crates, containers and bottles.

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Call for diversion from 'greed' to 'green' economy

First International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles seeks to accelerate transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns

Rethinking the way we design, produce, consume and dispose of resources will determine our ability to live within planetary boundaries and continue to enjoy the services that nature provides, a senior UN official told the 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles at its opening ceremony on 25th February, 2015.

High-level representatives from government and the private sector, international experts, academics, and practitioners from around the globe gathered in Dubai to build momentum for a shift to sustainable lifestyles, particularly in the Arab region.

The 1st Dubai International Forum for Sustainable Lifestyles, held from 25th to 26th February, was organized by the Zayed International

Foundation for the Environment in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with technical support provided by the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Secretariat and supported by the European Commission through the SWITCH-Med Project. The Forum identified the drivers of unsustainable consumption and lifestyles.

It was also looking to find ways around barriers to change by sharing knowledge and experiences, and showcasing initiatives across many areas—such as daily living, the built environment, mobility, consumer goods and services, food consumption, health and wellbeing.

'UAE leads the way in transition

to Green Economy'

In his welcome address, the UAE Minister of Environment and Water, Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahad, speaking on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai said: "Empowered and informed consumers can more easily make changes in lifestyle and consumption patterns contributing to the improvement of their health, more sustainable lifestyles and a low carbon economy. Shifting to more sustainable lifestyles involves actions across many sectors including mobility, city planning, food, textiles, housing, waste management, health, communication, and tourism."

"The UAE started leading the way towards a Green Economy to create





THE 1ST DUBAI International Forum for Sustainable Lifestyles, held from 25th to 26th February, is organized by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in partnership with UNEP.

more diversified, resilient economy and achieve sustainable development. We are working to introduce new policies for and encourage investment in more sustainable lifestyles, including the promotion of renewable energy deployment, standards and labelling of energy-efficient products and green buildings, green public procurement, slab tariffs for water and electricity, and education and raising awareness.

"Globally there are trends that are driving more innovative business models. There is an increased demand for innovative solutions to sustainability challenges," he added.

'Adopting a sustainable lifestyle entails accountability and responsibility'

In his address at the opening ceremony held at the Mohammed

Bin Rashid Hall of the Dubai Police Academy, Ibrahim Thiaw, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, thanked the Zayed Foundation for this initiative and expressed his gratitude to the UAE Minister of Environment and Water for his leadership in supporting the cause of the environment.

"I am sure that in the future, this Forum will be another global landmark event that will bring the world to Dubai and take Dubai to the rest of the world," he remarked.

"Shifting to more sustainable lifestyles is not only a 'label', found in UN jargon," said Mr. Thiaw. "It is about our daily lives: the buildings we live in, the shopping we do at the mall, the food

we have on our plates, the waste we generate, the clothes we wear and the light above our heads.

"Whether you work in business, in research and innovation, in educating our children or in architectural planning, it is our collective responsibility to make this issue our own," he said.

"This is not a developed versus developing economy issue; it is a global issue," said Ibrahim Thiaw. "Firmly establishing Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns will be crucial for the future of our planet, as the international community has recognized by creating a draft Sustainable Development Goals dedicated to the issue."

The forum will contribute to the

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regional Programme on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education which is part of the existing Arab Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

Other expected outcomes of the forum include:

- The development of an international network to exchange experience and support related efforts;
- The definition of relevant research topics to inform policy and promote sustainability driven entrepreneurship;
- The creation of partnerships and project ideas to advance sustainable lifestyles in the Arab region;
- Increased engagement to

successfully implement and up-scale promising ideas and initiatives.

The forum will also zero in on the contribution of the private sector, looking at how business can use innovation to address consumer needs and shift to more sustainable lifestyles and cultural and social mind sets.

By 2050, city dwellers will shape the world, opined Mr. Thiaw. "For better or for worse, they will be responsible for what I would call the striking "5 by 75": more than 75 per cent of the global GDP; 75 per cent of global energy; 75 per cent of natural resource use; 75 per cent of global GHGs; 75 per cent of global waste generation."

Cities will therefore continue to have a large ecological footprint, he stated,

reiterating that special efforts will be needed to be deployed in large cities if we want to address unsustainable development patterns.

He commended Dubai for its commitment to choosing a smart and sustainable way for prosperity. "I was pleased to learn that it aims, over the next 15 years, to cut its energy and water demand by no less than 30 per cent, retrofit 30,000 buildings to save energy, switch a quarter of the government car fleet to run on compressed gas and keep the temperatures in many buildings at 24°C," he said.

"I also understand that if everyone in the UAE swapped a conventional light bulb for an energy-saving one, and if energy saving appliances are imported instead of greedy devices,

'Foundations of a green path in the UAE were laid down by its visionary founding fathers'



the nation could not only save over 1,500 tonnes of carbon emissions every year, but also save billions of dollars."

Stating that adopting more sustainable production and consumption patterns is a moral obligation, Mr. Thiaw said, "There is an increased demand for innovative solutions to sustainability challenges, and new business models are emerging in response."

Consumer demand for sustainable products and services is growing, he added. "Companies with innovative business models that have integrated sustainability into their core strategies are growing fast-on average, at a rate of 15 per cent a year-at a time when their respective markets have remained flat, highlighting growing

public awareness of sustainable lifestyles, consumer choices based on this awareness, and the profit imperative for business to adapt to more sustainable practices."

"Sustainable development and low-carbon societies will only happen if people are empowered and encouraged to change the way they live," he added.

"This forum will accelerate the rate of change, which is already gathering pace in the business sector and beyond."

'Zayed Foundation is a world advocate for change'

In his concluding remarks, the UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw said that shifting our current consumption and production models

needs champions and requires leadership. "The Zayed Foundation is one of these champions," he said. "Through the remarkable people they award each year and through their programmes, they are world advocates for change. UNEP is very proud of its long-term partnership with the Foundation."

He also urged that "our ambition, driven by our long-term vision should be to convert the homo urbanus and divert him from the greed economy to the green economy."

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, in his address to the gathering announced that "the 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles is organized

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in tandem with the celebrations of the UAE's 18th National Environment Day, to come up with new concepts and mechanisms for achieving sustainability, especially when we consider that 2015 was declared a Year of Innovation by the UAE President H.H. Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan."

"If we are to achieve continuous economic growth and easy social life in a clean and safe environment, we have to adopt sustainability as a lifestyle influencing all our daily practices," he said.

The ultimate goal of this forum is to turn sustainability into a dominating culture, not only in buildings and cities, but covering all aspects of life including water, food and energy consumption, transport and entertainment, he pointed out.

'Foundations of a green path in the UAE were laid down by its visionary founding fathers'

The presence of high-level officials from both the government and the private sector meet along with international experts, academics and practitioners from around the globe will help build the momentum for changing course towards sustainable lifestyles, particularly in the Arab and West Asia regions, he said.

He called upon the mass media, which he said played a major role in spreading the culture of consumption to come forward "to play the key role in reversing the pattern and spreading the culture of sustainable living."

In the UAE, the foundations of a green path were laid down by its visionary founding fathers and the

UAE President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been developing it continuously to keep up with upcoming challenges, he said. "The UAE started leading the way towards a Green Economy to create more diversified and resilient economy and to achieve sustainable development.

"We are working to introduce new policies encouraging a shift of investment towards more sustainable lifestyles, including the promotion of renewable energy and labeling of energy-efficient products in addition to green buildings, green public procurement, slab tariffs for water and electricity, education and awareness raising and clean products."

The UAE's Vision 2021 and strategic plans clearly show commitment to deal with present and future

The 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles was organized in tandem with the celebrations of the UAE's 18th National Environment Day.



environmental challenges, pointed out Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Fahad. "The commitment was boosted by the "Emirates Green Development Strategy" which was launched by HH Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, under the slogan: "Green Economy for sustainable development".

"It has been pushed further by the declaration of 2015 as a year of innovation to face the ever rising challenges."

Stating that the country's green plans and actions have moved the UAE into the front row of leading countries adopting Green Economy, he said that "our country is now an important hub and partner of the regional and international organizations working to

promote sustainable life styles." Prof. Bin Fahad hoped that the Forum, a joint initiative of UNEP and the Zayed Foundation, would open the door for further cooperation and joint efforts to achieve common goals. "I am also

hoping that this forum will draw a road map for empowering and encouraging communities to change the way they live towards more Sustainable development and low-carbon societies," he concluded.



S Cover Story

20 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Paving the way for sustainable lifestyles

The 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles enabled sharing of knowledge and experience with initiatives working on various aspects of enabling more sustainable lifestyles.

The 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles brought together a diverse and dynamic network of international experts, practitioners and professionals to discuss and take action on sustainable lifestyles.

Organised over a two-day period from 25th to 26th February, 2015 at Gloria Hotel, Dubai, the forum addressed some key fundamental issues such as international drivers and barriers for sustainable lifestyles.

At a session moderated by Charlie Mathews, Joint US-China Collaboration on Clean Energy (JUCCCE), China, participants explored the various drivers of unsustainable consumption and lifestyles, in order to understand individual needs, influencers,

motivators and triggers to more sustainable living practices.

Prof. David A. Kirby, Chair of Business Administration, British University in Cairo, Egypt and Sanda Ojiambo, Head of Sustainability, Safaricom, Kenya, discussed the business case for action by identifying enablers of more sustainable ways of living – from entrepreneurs and big business to investors, policy-makers, designers, and futurists.

They delved into the business models that are likely to be the sign-posts to the future businesses that enable sustainable lifestyles and gave an insight into how businesses foster continuous innovation to address consumer needs as they shift to more sustainable lifestyles, cultural and social mindsets.

Championing the cause of the youth who, he believes, are tomorrow's decision makers was Laiden Pedrina, Founder, Young Artists Fellowship for the Environment (YAFE), the Philippines, while Lewis Akenji, Senior Policy Fellow, Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), Japan, gave an insight into lessons learnt from failures and how these would help bring about institutional changes to facilitate sustainable lifestyles.

On 26th February, the second day of the Forum, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, moderated a discussion titled "Resource efficient cities: How can taking action at city level make a difference?"

Describing cities as an engine or





THE 1ST DUBAI International Forum for Sustainable Lifestyles, held from 25th to 26th February, is organized by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in partnership with UNEP.

driver of sustainability, Dr. Arab Hoballah, Chief, Sustainable Lifestyles, Cities and Industries Branch, UNEP, emphasized that cities are the hub for education and culture, innovation and investments and partnership. Despite the challenges of urbanization and the constant flow of population to the cities, the urban areas are to be seen as part of the solution, he pointed out.

It is possible, he said, to bring about 30 to 50 per cent savings in energy and water in cities just by changing habits and without incurring any investment. "A city is a complex environment that requires a systematic approach in its transitioning to a sustainable lifestyle," he said.

"The challenges are many but equally so are the benefits. We are all

consumers; every single purchase has hidden human health, environmental, and social impacts and it is possible to reduce adverse impacts by buying better products."

Quoting the words of Roman author Quintus Septimus Tertullian who lived more than 2,200 years ago, Dr. Hoballah warned of the perils of inaction saying: "Resources are becoming scarce and soon nature will no longer be able to satisfy our needs."

Using the example of the city of Barcelona, Irma Ventayol, Environment Officer, Barcelona City Council, highlighted in a presentation how the city worked towards its sustainable goals by working in unison and collaboration with all the stakeholders of the city ranging

from the government and small and big businesses to individuals, organisations, students and others.

After an intensive participatory process, Barcelona specified the details of its Agenda 21 in the Citizen Commitment to Sustainability, a document drafted by broad consensus that defined goals and lines of action for the 2002-2012 period.

Creating an efficient, productive and zero emission city entailed not only involved the wise use of resources or a focus on biodiversity, environment quality and health but also education and citizen actions to raise awareness, progress and development from concern for sustainability to a sustainability based economy, and good governance

S Cover Story

22 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s



and inculcation of co-responsibility amongst others, she pointed out.

Jeffery Neng, Director, Building and Construction Authority (BCA), Centre for Sustainable Buildings, Singapore gave a brief outline of how the City of Singapore, barely 700 sq km and with no known natural resources transformed itself into a green city of the future in a span of less than 50 years since independence. "With no natural resources, resource efficiency has been the key to our national development," he said.

The three principles of sustainable development that have shaped Singapore, he explained, "comprised of a long term, integrated planning; following a pragmatic, cost-effective approach; and providing flexibility in policy and technology to learn from

best practices around the world."

Singapore aims to have 80 per cent green buildings in the country by 2030. Green cities need green buildings, asserts Neng, because they are the largest contributors to GHG emissions. "Buildings use 40 per cent of global energy, 25 per cent of global water and 40 per cent of global resources," he said.



Discussing innovations in the transport sector in Nepal was Binod Prasad Shrestha, Director, Winrock Nepal, who explained how electric vehicles (EV) were introduced in Kathmandu as early as 1975 when the Chinese government set up the trolley bus system. The EV movement, however, took off in 1989 when a fuel crisis resulting from the India imposed trade embargo prompted a group of engineers to find an alternative arrangement for transportation.

To combat the air pollution in Kathmandu Valley, it was imperative to have an efficient transport system with clean vehicles, he explained, and the Kathmandu Electric Vehicle Alliance (KEVA) was set up for this purpose. Accordingly, locally manufactured three-wheeler SAFA tempos (SAFA is a Nepali word for

Through poor portion control or buying too much fresh food that goes bad before we use it, we create a lot of waste.



clean) were brought to Nepal in 1996 and currently there are more than 600 SAFA tempos in Kathmandu valley alone. Around 120,000 passengers benefit from the service provided by the SAFA tempo in 17 different routes within the city, on a daily basis.

The vehicle enjoys 11+1 seating capacity, can travel 100 to 120 kms in a day and covers 50 to 60 kms in a single charge. Additionally, 15 to 20 per cent are women drivers, he pointed out.

There is a clear need to further promote these environment friendly vehicles on more routes, provide better technology and opt for market diversification as it has proven to be the one of the most suitable means of transportation in Kathmandu, he said.

“SAFA tempos have a total annual fuel savings of 2.5 million litres leading to annual emission reductions of 7.5 tonnes of CO₂,” he added.

At a discussion and presentation on lifestyles and sustainable food consumption, participants and speakers made the case for reducing food waste in the light of the fact that about one third of all food production world-wide gets lost or wasted in the food production and consumption systems, amounting to 1.3 billion tonnes. Citing FAO statistics, Dr. Arab Hoballah, one of the speakers, pointed out that in industrialized nations, retailers and consumers discard around 300 million tonnes that is fit for consumption, around half of the total food squandered in these regions.

This is more than the total net food

production of Sub-Saharan Africa and would be sufficient to feed the estimated 900 million people hungry in the world, he said.

With population growth expected to touch 9 billion by the year 2050, eliminating food waste through simple actions by consumers and food retailers is imperative if we need to help shape a sustainable future, he said.



S Zayed Prize

24 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t y



Zayed Foundation shares national Environment Day momentum

As the UAE celebrates the 18th National Environment Day, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment participates in a host of activities to promote sustainability and spread environmental awareness.

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the UAE celebrated the 18th National Environment Day on February 4 under the slogan of "The Green Economy: Innovation and Sustainability".

H.H. Sheikh Khalifa asserted the commitment of the UAE at both the official and community levels to take care of the environment and use enough resources to achieve development without pollution or depletion of natural resources.

"The management of the economy's green sustainability aims at preserving the environmental and heritage resources, protection of our daily lives and securing all factors that contribute to prosperity, health and

stability of every individual, as well as ensuring protection of the rights of the coming generations," he said in a statement.

Sheikh Khalifa also called upon officials dealing with environmental affairs to reform policies and legislation to help control urban and industrial activities that lead to an increase in carbon emissions and pollution, and, at the same time, encourage economic activities which depend on clean renewable energy.

He further stated that sustainable development is the crown of the UAE's Vision 2021 goals.

In celebration of the 18th National Environment Day, and in its determination to continuously step up its efforts to protect the

environment and achieve the nation's sustainable development goals, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment celebrated this important occasion through participation in several environment-related activities and events.

Marking National Environment Day supports the Zayed Foundation's strategic objective to promote sustainability and spread environmental awareness.

The Zayed Foundation was part of the Environment Day celebrations organized by the Emirates Standardization and Metrology Authority (ESMA) at its premises in Dubai. A public lecture on "Indoor Environment Challenges" was delivered by the Chief Technical Advisor Dr. Eisa Abdellatif who



MARKING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY supports the Zayed Foundation's strategic objective to promote sustainability and spread environmental awareness.

pointed out that indoor air quality in the Gulf region is of particular interest because high temperature and humidity levels require people in the region to live in 24 hour, seven day a week air-conditioned environments.

As people in the Gulf region spend more time indoors due to climatic conditions, air pollutants found indoors in the UAE demonstrate the regional increased risk of adverse health conditions in homes, offices and schools due to air pollutants. In his talk, Dr. Eisa Abdellatif also established linkages between a building's design and performance and a sustainable urban environment.

The event also included an exhibition of publications published by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment which included

the monthly magazines (Society & Environment) in Arabic and English and the book series (Aalam Albeia).

The Zayed Foundation was also part of the celebrations organized by Al Ain Municipality in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Events to commemorate the 18th national Environment Day were held in five different locations representing the municipality sectors as well as at Al Ain Mall.

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed Foundation, was invited by the Al Yahar School to deliver a public lecture on "Indoor Environment challenges". The event was attended by a large number of students, parents and teachers.

A public lecture on "Green Economy" was delivered by Dr. Meshgan

Mohamed Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, at the main theatre of Al Ain Municipality Head Quarters. She pointed out that the slogan for the UAE National Environment Day for 2014 up to 2016 - 'The Green Economy: Innovation and Sustainability' - emphasized the role of the economy as one of the three pillars of sustainable development.

She also said that the transformation of the UAE economy into a green low-carbon economy would enable the country to achieve its sustainable economic development goals.

The adoption of the green economy approach, she further added, is based on the ambitious UAE Vision 2021, which emphasizes the flexibility of the stable and diverse economy in

S Zayed Prize

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adopting new economic models.

The UAE's National Environment Day serves as a platform for drawing attention to the state's priorities in terms of environmental issues as well as raising the level of environmental awareness among various individuals and community groups, she added.

A mobile exhibition of publications issued by the Zayed Foundation including *Society & Environment*, a monthly magazine in Arabic and English, and the book series, *Aalam Albeia*, was held in six different locations including Al Ain Mall.

Under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, the Minister of Environment and Water, UAE, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) also organized the 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles, one of the biggest events of its kind in the region, from 25th to 26th February at Yassat Gloria Hotel, Dubai. This coincided with Zayed Foundation celebrating the UAE's 18th National Environment Day.

The 1st Dubai International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles attracted dozens of key policy makers, international experts, business leaders, representatives of civil society and academia to address one of the most important challenges of our time: "How can we move to sustainable lifestyles in the future?" Generating collective global impact integral in the transition towards global sustainable lifestyles, the forum was the first major event

on sustainable lifestyles and an opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to rethink the ways they design, produce and consume to enable people around the world to move towards a society where generations must live within the boundaries of our planet.





e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w 27

Annual Sustainable Campus Conference aims to empower next generation of green leaders

As part of its Sustainable Campus Initiative, SCI, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD, held on 9th February, 2015, the first-ever Annual Sustainable Campus Conference, “The Need for Mainstreaming Sustainability into Universities and Colleges”, aimed at supporting mentors in universities to empower the next generation of green leaders.

The conference brought together experts including lecturers and professors from various colleges and campuses across the country. International experts introduced best practices from around the world including Arjen Wals, Europe, Akpezi Ogbuigwe, Africa, Peter Blaze Corcoran, USA, Hongwei Tan, Asia, and Bob Jickling, Canada. Panel discussions were held on the

conference theme, ‘The Need for Mainstreaming Sustainability into Universities and Colleges’ and on the ‘Current Status and Challenges in the UAE for Promoting Sustainability within our Universities and Colleges’.

Ahmad Baharoon, Executive Director, Environmental Information, Science and Outreach Management, EAD, who also spoke at the event, commented, “The conference proved to be a melting pot for knowledge exchange. Through SCI, the education sector will be able to better support our efforts in shaping sustainable communities across the country. This is a milestone among the many programmes that we are driving, raising public awareness about our natural heritage across land, air and sea.

“Our aim is to build a young

generation equipped with the ‘green’ awareness and skills to become future sustainability leaders,” he added.

EAD launched SCI’s pilot phase with the participation of 100 students from four universities in Abu Dhabi, including Zayed University, Higher Colleges of Technology- Women’s College in Khalifa City, Higher Colleges of Technology – Men’s College in Madinat Zayed and Higher Colleges of Technology – Women’s College in Ruwais. During an official launch of the initiative, five additional universities registered and pledged their continuous commitment to SCI, including the American University of Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates University, Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, the Petroleum Institute, and New York University Abu Dhabi.

Car-Free Day

28 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

15,000 cars go off Dubai roads on Car-Free Day

Hamdan bin Mohammed, senior officials partake in 'Car Free Day' initiative which coincided with UAE's National Environment Day.

On the occasion of celebrating the 18th National Environment Day, launched under the patronage of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, has called on spreading effective methods towards preserving the environment.

Sheikh Hamdan also called on encouraging all members of the community to support all efforts exerted in this regard so as to improve the quality of life for today's and future generations.

In support to the initiative's objectives that aim to reduce carbon emission from vehicles, Sheikh Hamdan and a number of government officials took

part in the initiative on 4th February, which was organised by Dubai Municipality; thus highlighting the initiative's importance as a national and moral commitment to preserve our resources and ecosystem.

Alongside H.H. Sheikh Hamdan were Director General of Dubai Municipality Hussain Nasser Lootah, Chairman of the Board and Executive

Director of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) Mattar Al Tayer, Director of Dubai Ruler's Court, Mohammed Abdullah Al Shebani, Director-General of Department of Economic Development, Sami Al Gamzi, Director-General of Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, Hilal Saeed Al Marri and Director-General of Dubai Health Authority (DHA), Essa Al Maidoor.

Moral Commitment

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum affirmed that the UAE is exerting utmost efforts to protect the environment and achieve the country's sustainable development goals; in addition to increasing awareness level through community participation in environment-related activities and events.





OFFICIALS AT THE Dubai Municipality estimated that around 15,000 vehicles were off the roads in Dubai as the emirate marked its sixth edition of car-free day.

He further asserted that such initiatives will encourage the public to reconsider and rationalise resources' use in everyday life; a move that expresses our national and moral commitment to conserve our resources and protect our environment. Sheikh Hamdan noted that such positive practice rests

with the individuals and the community alike.

The Crown Prince also commended the initiative and its objectives that have exceeded expected goals of increasing awareness levels to taking tangible steps in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

This year's edition of "Car Free Day" aimed to reduce 70 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, compared to 20 tons achieved last year, by encouraging employees and officials to switch to public transportation.

Sheikh Hamdan expressed his satisfaction over the large turnout of the participants, which reflects the growing awareness of the importance of such initiatives.

He also affirmed the government's keenness to promote Dubai as a hub for innovative solutions to achieve sustainable development goals.

Last year's edition of "Car Free Day" succeeded in reducing 20 tons of carbon dioxide emissions after more than 7,000 private cars were replaced by public transportation.



S Partnership

30 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i



Worldwide partnership to develop robust business plan for Wadi Wurayah National Park

Bright minds from the international community come together to support the ongoing creation of the UAE's first national park in Fujairah.

In celebration of the UAE Environment Day on February 4, Wadi Wurayah National Park announced a new partnership with one of the top business schools, Stern Business School of New York University, which will result in the development of a robust business plan for Wadi Wurayah National Park.

The partnership, which includes Fujairah Municipality and EWS-WWF, will anticipate the future success and prosperity of this unique and rare place of natural heritage, and its contribution to the country's Green Economy vision.

H.E. Engineer Mohammed Saif Al Afkham Manager of Fujairah Municipality said: "We welcome this collaborative partnership which will support the development of the

first national park in the country, according to best practice and high standards. We need a good business plan to ensure the sustainability of the project; and this collaborative approach will help Wadi Wurayah National Park in Fujairah become a haven where future generations can experience and enjoy the unique natural heritage of their forefathers."

This show of support by well-respected organisations is welcome news for Wadi Wurayah National Park, as it continues on its path towards becoming a national park that is not only famous for its natural beauty, but also for its conservation success, eco-tourism opportunities and environmental education offerings.

Ida Tillisch, Director General at EWS-WWF, said: "We are thrilled to

announce that some of the world's brightest people will be helping us develop this critical component, essential for achieving the long-term success in Wadi Wurayah National Park.

"To many, Wadi Wurayah may appear to be a barren landscape at first sight, but we are confident that it will offer tranquillity to its visitors and leave them in awe of the fascinating and endangered species that make this fragile and arid environment their home. We therefore extend our gratitude to Stern Business School for lending their expertise and experience to this project; and for sharing our vision in the importance of the wadi's conservation as an integral and unique part of Fujairah and the United Arab Emirates' natural heritage".

Characterized by its high quality fresh



WADI WURAYAH NATIONAL PARK aims to become an outstanding centre for effective environmental conservation management in the region, contributing to social, cultural and economic development through conservation, education and ecotourism.

water resources, Wadi Wurayah is home to a number of rare and endangered flora and fauna. It is anticipated that through this unique partnership between public, private and non-profit entities, and a strategy to ensure the UAE's first national park is financially sustainable in the future, will greatly benefit future conservation efforts in the Wadi.

Five top MBA students have been selected to work on the project as part of the coursework at Stern Business School during the spring semester 2015. The students will visit Wadi Wurayah and partake in interviewing key stakeholders in February to gain a greater understanding of the multi-dimensional business plan that will need to be created for the park. They will also have the chance to join

the Wadi Wurayah National Park conservation team to conduct field research.

The partnership is also supported by a well-renowned management consultancy firm that will assist in developing the business plan for Wadi Wurayah National Park.

In March 2009, Wadi Wurayah was declared the UAE's first Mountain Protected Area by decree No 2 by HH Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammad Al Sharqi, ruler of Fujairah and member of the Supreme Council of the UAE. The Mountain Protected Area covers a 129 square-km area between Khor Fakhn and Bidiyah. This came as a result successful public, private sector and NGO collaboration that worked and continued to work on biodiversity research in the Wadi.

Sheltering a rich diversity of rare and endangered mountain and freshwater habitats and species, and providing opportunities for the sustenance and revival of local livelihoods, Wadi Wurayah is a critical area for environmental and cultural preservation.

In 2013, the Government of Fujairah and Fujairah Municipality appointed EWS-WWF to help develop and establish Wadi Wurayah as the first National Park in the UAE that follows best international standards.



S Campaign

32 creating green communities

UAE students plant 1,000 Ghaf trees for the Plant for the Planet campaign

Accor Hotels, in association with Dubai Municipality and SynergY, join Goumbook and the Give a Ghaf Tree Planting Program to further cement their commitment to sustainability and supporting younger generations.

Accor HotelServices Middle East, a leading hospitality group, and UAE-based environmental portal Goumbook have partnered for a long term reforestation plan which will see the first 1,000 Ghaf trees planted over the next 12 months across the UAE.

As part of the 'Plant for the Planet Campaign', the trees will be planted in specific sites chosen by Dubai Municipality to support Goumbook's initiative, the Give a Ghaf Tree Planting Program. Simran Vedvyas, founder of SynergY, the student-led youth organization, has been appointed as Youth Ambassador of the campaign, and will bring together over a hundred UAE youths to volunteer and join the initiative during 2015.

The first planting location of the 'Plant

for the Planet' campaign took place on 28th February, 2015 at Warsan Landfill with the active support of Dubai Municipality. The first 100 Ghaf trees planted in the landfill will aid vegetation and conservation within the fragmented landscape to maintain and improve the broader ecosystem across the area.

Eng. Abdul Majeed Saifaie, Director of Waste Management Department, Dubai Municipality, congratulated the team for coming together to plant the native UAE tree. Eng. Najj Al Radhi, Head of Waste treatment Section, Eng. Sadin Al Falasi, Head of Treatment Systems Unit and Eng. Mukesh Sajwan, Principal Officer, Waste Treatment, took part in the tree plantation work at the landfill.

"We have taken our commitment to

hotel sustainability in the region to the next level through our partnership with Goumbook," said Christophe Landais, Chief Operating Officer for Accor HotelServices Middle East. "Giving something back to restore and maintain our precious natural habitats near our hotel communities is crucial, particularly as we expand our network," he added.

Accor VP for Sustainable Development, Arnaud Herrmann, said that through the Group's sustainable development program, PLANET 21, Accor is deepening its focus on preserving the ecosystems in which its hotels operate.

'Plant for the Planet' is a global reforestation initiative within Accor's Planet 21, developed in partnership with Pur Projet, an organization





THE GIVE A GHAF is a not for profit initiative launched by Goumbook in 2010 to raise awareness on the local environment and the UAE national tree – the Ghaf - and the incredible biodiversity present in the desert.

committed to developing community based agro-forestry projects around the world.

“PLANET 21 reforestation program relies on common guest and employee commitment and, through our partnership with Goumbook and the Give a Ghaf Tree Planting Program, we are providing large scale landscape restoration. People and wildlife thriving together is a top priority for our organization as we strive to leave our planet in good health for generations of hoteliers and guests to come,” Herrmann added.

Tatiana Antonelli Abella, Managing Director of Goumbook and founder of the Give a Ghaf Tree Planting Program, congratulated Accor for establishing the Plant for the Planet program in the UAE and abroad. “The

contribution to the local environment is great and will make a huge difference. In addition, the information provided to residents and hotel guests around the UAE about the program will help motivate them to become involved.

Our research and experience have shown that just about everyone wants to help, but getting involved is the difficult bit. This partnership with Accor will amplify the efforts of hundreds of people to preserve the UAE national tree and make a difference. We are investing in the next generations’ future and therefore asking all youngsters in the UAE to participate and join the campaign,” she said.

The ‘Plant for the Planet’ campaign will strive to improve the standard

of living and facilitate participation for residents to become an active part of the city’s green vision, and to help effectively manage its continued growth.



Green Economy

34 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

Implementation plans for Dubai's green economy initiatives evaluated

At its 33rd meeting, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy discusses several issues including the carbon abatement strategy for Dubai.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy chaired the Supreme Council's 33rd meeting held at its headquarters. The meeting, held on 3rd February, 2015 was attended by HE Ahmed Butti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and other Supreme Council members including, Abdullah Kalban, MD & CEO of Emirates Global Aluminium, Saeed Khoory, CEO of Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC), Abdullah Abdel Kareem, Director General of the Department of Oil Affairs, Waleed Salman, Chairman of Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence, Dr. Yousef Al Ali, CEO of Public Transport Agency at the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), and representatives from Dubai Supply Authority.

The Council members were briefed on the agenda, which included several topics including the carbon abatement strategy for Dubai.

Al Tayer reviewed the results of his official visit to Austria where the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to promote collaboration in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and to develop sustainable energy projects and programmes to be a platform for knowledge exchange about sustainability.

"In line with the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the happiest city in the

world, the Supreme Council discussed aligning its strategy with the Dubai Plan 2021, which seeks to establish Dubai as a smart and sustainable city. The Supreme Council of Energy and its subsidiaries showed the programmes that were presented to the Dubai Executive Council about sustainable energy, clean energy and energy efficiency in the Emirate," said Al Tayer.

Al Tayer highlighted raising the percentage of renewable energy targets in Dubai's energy mix to 7% by 2020 and 15% by 2030, and the success DEWA achieved in getting the lowest international prices to produce electricity, based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model for phase two of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park.





e s f o r a e t t e r t o m o r r o w

AL TAYER HIGHLIGHTED raising the percentage of renewable energy targets in Dubai's energy mix to 7% by 2020 and 15% by 2030.

"The Board was briefed on the latest energy demand-side management strategy as part of the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030 to retrofit existing buildings, as well as improving the performance management and distribution of gas in Dubai to achieve the Dubai Integrated Gas Strategy 2030," added Al Tayer.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) presented its carbon reduction programme at its premises to implement Dubai's carbon strategy, to reduce carbon emissions by 16% by 2021. This helped achieve a reduction of 5.3 million tonnes of carbon emissions from 2006 to 2013.

The members were also briefed about the progress of the Dubai Green Economy Partnership to stimulate

green growth and sustainable development in Dubai and enhance its position as a leading global hub in the transition towards a green economy. They also discussed cooperation between public, private, and non-governmental organisations.

"Members were updated on the development of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum solar park and

doubling the capacity of phase two from 100MW to 200MW, which is one of the largest strategic projects in the world using the IPP model in the renewable energy market. The meeting also viewed the resolution to regulate connection of photovoltaic (PV) panels for the production of electricity from solar power in buildings, and connect them to DEWA's grid," said Al Muhairabi.



S Bio Diesel

36 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Leftover vegetable oils to power Dubai municipal vehicles

Dubai becomes the first city in the world to adopt biodiesel made 100% locally from 100% waste cooking oil for use in municipality vehicles.

On the occasion of the UAE Environment Day on February 4, Dubai Municipality signed a ground-breaking agreement with Neutral Fuels LLC to replace diesel in its vehicles with clean biodiesel.

With the agreement, Dubai will become the first city in the world to formally adopt biodiesel made 100% locally from 100% waste cooking oil for use in its municipal vehicles.

Biodiesel is a clean sustainable biofuel produced by reacting used cooking oils with methanol in the presence of a sodium methylate catalyst. Neutral Fuels has been producing biodiesel in the UAE since 2010, when it became the first biodiesel manufacturer ever to be licensed in Dubai.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, is driving initiatives to promote fuel efficiency and create a truly sustainable city within the next three decades, under his UAE Vision 2021 and Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030. These include the rational use of energy and fuel, encouraging conversion of waste to energy and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Karl W Feilder, CEO and Chairman of Neutral Fuels, said: "This is a fantastic day for the UAE, for Dubai and for biodiesel. In adopting biodiesel – which doesn't even require any engine modifications on diesel vehicles – the Municipality is creating a sustainability benchmark which the rest of the world should note.

"We are proud to be part of the

UAE's bold vision for a sustainable future, and applaud the Municipality for making such a strategic move."

VIPs, Dubai Municipality staff and a host of media gathered at the Municipality Headquarters in Al Rigga, Dubai on February 4, to celebrate the agreement, and to witness a demonstration of how a biorefinery works.

"Neutral Fuels is keen for everyone to see for themselves exactly how Dubai's used vegetable cooking oil is chemically converted into pure, clean biodiesel – so we recreated our Dubai production facility in the Municipality car park!" said Feilder.

"It's Car Free Day, so the car park was going to be empty, and we thought it would be a great way



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w



NEUTRAL FUELS LLC, a Dubai-based company, converts used cooking oil into European EN14214 standard compliant biodiesel, a sustainable replacement for fossil diesel.

to explain to a lot of people the complexity of making high quality biodiesel in clear, easy steps," said the clean fuel pioneer.

Biodiesel – which doesn't cost any more than traditional diesel – is the quickest and simplest method available for vehicle owners to decrease the earth's reliance on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Biodiesel made from used vegetable cooking oil reduces the CO₂ carbon dioxide – the 'greenhouse gas' which is causing the temperature of the planet to rise and melting the ice caps.

A move to clean biodiesel means less CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere which means less global warming.

As well as proven environmental credentials, biodiesel:

- Reduces lifecycle carbon footprint by up to 80% compared to diesel
- Halves the poisonous carbon monoxide emissions from exhaust pipes
- Reduces smog and halves carbon particle emissions
- Brings better air quality to Dubai
- Even reduces wear and tear on engines as it has superior lubricity compared to low sulphur fossil diesel

"Processing millions of litres of used cooking oil into biodiesel per annum, Neutral Fuels symbolizes the difference between fossil fuel and biofuel. Fossil fuel comes from ancient sources deep in the earth. Getting

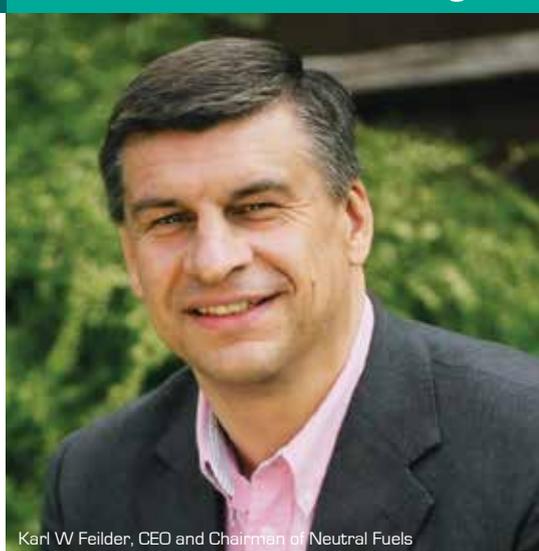
it out, processing it and using it is a destructive process. By contrast, there is nothing destructive about biofuel. It is fresh, modern, clean and sustainable – just like Dubai!" Feilder concluded.

Neutral Fuels is the first licensed biorefinery in the UAE, and a member of The Neutral Group, an international clean-tech organization founded in 2006 to build sustainability strategies for the logistics, energy and hospitality industries and to execute significant reductions in energy spend and CO₂ emissions.

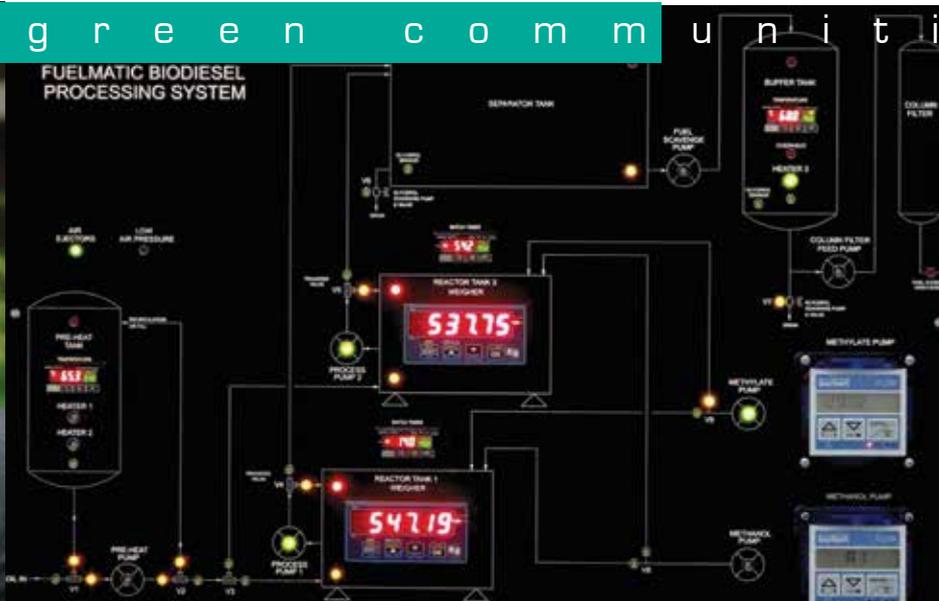
In February 2012, Neutral Fuels, jointly with McDonald's UAE, won the 2011 Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport in the Environmental Protection category from the Dubai Road and Transport Authority (RTA).

S Bio Diesel

38 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i



Karl W Feilder, CEO and Chairman of Neutral Fuels



In April 2012 Neutral Fuels client, Allied Keystone Logistics (UAE), was named Planet Champion in the Logistic Category of McDonald's Global Best of Green 2012 Awards and won a Best of the Best Award for its UAE biodiesel initiative.

Another customer, the Gulf Indian High School of Dubai, has run its entire school bus fleet on 100% biodiesel since January 2013. Since then the buses have used over half a million litres of B100 (100% biodiesel). This represents a carbon saving of 1,380 tonnes of CO₂e, which is the equivalent of 68,900 trees growing for one year.

In 2013, Gulf Indian High School won the UAE RTA award for Sustainable Transport due to its usage of B100 biodiesel from Neutral Fuels.

Benefits of Biodiesel

- Diesel engines in the UAE do not need to be adapted for biodiesel.
- Biodiesel has been extensively tested in Dubai over the last 5 years in a wide variety of vehicles covering millions of kilometers.
- Biodiesel is non-toxic, fully biodegradable, and safer to store than fossil diesel.
- Biodiesel is better for running diesel engines than fossil diesel due to its superior lubricity and higher cetane.
- Diesel engines burn less fuel than a petrol engine performing the same work. Petrol engines are typically 25% efficient, while diesel engines can convert over 30% of the fuel energy into mechanical energy.
- Most modern diesel cars and trucks are capable of running on 100% pure biodiesel (known as B100) in all but the coldest of European winter temperatures. This is obviously not a problem in the UAE.
- Diesel motors run better, burn cleaner, emit less SO_x and last longer on biodiesel fuel.
- Biodiesel from used cooking oil can result in an 84% reduction in carbon footprint compared with fossil diesel, without any modifications to the vehicle (UK Dept. of Transport report, January 2008).
- Rudolph Diesel patented his engine in 1892 and his first working prototype ran on vegetable oil in 1897.



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w 39

MAF Dalkia partners with Etihad ESCO to deliver DEWA Energy Saving Solutions

MAF Dalkia, a leading regional provider of multi-technical and energy management services has announced the signature of an Energy Performance Contract with Etihad Energy Service Company (Etihad ESCO) to deliver energy saving solutions for seven DEWA-owned buildings across Dubai.

The contract will be the operational tool for Etihad ESCO to deliver the guaranteed savings in one of the two Energy Savings Performance Contracts signed between DEWA and Etihad ESCO last month, aiming at enhancing the overall energy efficiency at various infrastructures in the Emirate.

Within the contract's framework, MAF Dalkia will deliver energy saving and water conservation solutions for

the seven DEWA-owned buildings, including its headquarters, through improving the building control systems, the chiller plant facilities, the air conditioning equipment, and the water systems.

Commenting on the contract, Alex Mussallam, CEO of MAF Dalkia said: "Following our accreditation as an ESCO and the launching of our Energy Saving Center in April 2014, this appointment reaffirms our commitment to sustainability and energy management in Middle East, and our support of Dubai's 2030 vision to reduce energy consumption by 30%".

This partnership will contribute to enhancing comfort and productivity for customers and staff with the contract guaranteeing an overall savings in electricity and water use

of 31 per cent for six years with an overall payback of six years.

Comprehensive long-term maintenance, repair and replacement of the installed components are also funded through guaranteed energy savings to ensure the installed improvements remain in good working order over the respective contract duration.

"This comprehensive Energy Savings Performance Contract on buildings, helps DEWA lower its carbon footprint and save significant energy through efficiency" said Stephane le Gentil, CEO of Etihad ESCO. " This project confirms that significant energy savings in Dubai's existing buildings can be achieved through public-private partnerships using the energy performance contracting model."

Summit

40 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

'A summit of innovation'

[Opening session of the third Government Summit in Dubai underlines innovation as driving force of economic competitiveness.](#)

The third Government Summit served as a global platform to address the challenges of the future and build an environment that fosters the well-being of individuals and stability of nations.

The third Government Summit, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, marked its opening by underlining the role of innovation in driving the economic competitiveness of nations and enhancing the quality of life of people.

Addressing the gathering of heads of states, high-ranking government officials, technology experts and educationalists from around the world, Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Government Summit, said: "The Government Summit reflects the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum that innovation

is today's imperative in ensuring the progress of humanity and in building stable, progressive and creative communities.

"The Summit serves as a global platform to address the challenges of the future and build an environment that fosters the well-being of individuals and stability of nations.

"The experts address tough questions such as how we can change our educational system to enable students to access jobs that do not exist today, and ways to prepare for a future when current jobs become obsolete with technology advancement. They also explore the challenges faced by governments in a fast-changing world to ensure the sustained happiness and welfare of citizens," said Al Gergawi.





THE THIRD GOVERNMENT Summit was held under the theme 'Shaping Future Governments' and hosted more than 100 guest speakers from outside the UAE.

In his keynote address, Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, said that the UAE is today among the first countries globally to take the lead in educating its people on the impact of the technology revolution through initiatives such as The Government Summit.

He identified the “3 Es” – educate, engage and empower- that are important to strengthen a culture of innovation by governments, adding that innovation is the way forward to boost economic competitiveness.

Schwab said “governments must prepare its people the changes brought by the new wave of technology revolution – and what the UAE does in this regard is extraordinary. Alongside, it is

important to build the skills of the people by changing our education systems. Virtual education will play a big role and is an area where UAE could be one of the first adopters.”

He said that engaging the private sector is the second key driver, and that partnerships between governments, businesses and the civil society will help shape a new innovation ecosystem. The third driver is empowering communities, particularly women, and making them a part of the change process.

Calling for a future that will be defined by true pioneers and pace-setters in innovation, Schwab said one of the fundamental enablers to promote innovation by governments is to restore the current trust deficit that political and business leaders face.

“Leaders must respond to the needs of the people who have lost their trust in the leadership through honesty, morality and responsibility,” he noted.

He commended the UAE leadership for setting a model in this regard, adding that clear and visionary leadership has enabled the country to enhance its global competitiveness ranking from 27 four years ago to the 12th position now.

Mr. Schwab said that meritocracy must assume significance in today's post-crisis world. “The economic future over the next few years will be characterised by low growth, rather than high growth, with even emerging economies going through a mid-life crisis. The future challenges can be met only by governments, working in close cooperation with businesses.

Summit

42 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i



Governments need to treat private business as a true partner.”

In addition to the breakdown in trust and the challenges of the post-crisis world, Mr. Schwab said the third defining factor that influences the future of governments is the new technological revolution.

“The revolution is not changing what and how we use technology, but changing us and our lives. Just look at the impact of the internet on the notion of privacy. The new generation has completely different notion of privacy from us, the older generation.”

He said that unlike the scientific revolutions of the past that arrived in waves, ‘today’s tech revolution is a tsunami and disruptive. This calls for system innovation, in today’s

era of ‘talentism,’ where humanity’s capability for imagination and innovation builds a new ecosystem.”

“In this, governments have an essential role to play – though innovation has tended to come from private business, governments have to be catalysts, driving the innovation in this ecosystem. Robots, drones and AI will be critical in the future and again I congratulate the UAE for its work with drones – it is very impressive and pioneering,” said Mr. Schwab.

From its earlier focus on knowledge accumulation and competition, South Korea is shifting to a new educational system that places emphasis on “character education,” to prepare its youth to be true citizens of the future, said Hwang Woo-yea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

Addressing the Summit opening and highlighting the role of education in achieving the transformational growth of the country, he said that the driving forces in this are the timely reforms by the government, strategic approaches for the educational sector, parental passion in providing high quality education for their children and creating a cadre of highly qualified teachers.



الريادة في الخدمات الحكومية
LEADING GOVERNMENT SERVICES



Air cooled system of Emirates Towers converted to District Cooling System

Empower, the world's largest district cooling services provider has announced that it has recently connected its services to the prestigious development of Emirates Towers which consist of the Emirates Office Tower and Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel that are connected with a two-storey retail complex known as "The Boulevard".

The two towers, which rise to 355 m (1,165 ft) and 309 m (1,014 ft) respectively, are in the list of the tallest buildings in the world.

Empower converted the existing air cooled system to district cooling system for the total capacity of 6,000 Refrigeration Tonne (RT), which will result in energy savings of approximately 80% for the Jumeirah Group-owned property.

"Building a green economy for sustainable development is a key pillar in the country's roadmap to development under Vision 2021 and we are fully committed to achieving this goal," said H.E Ahmad Bin Shafar, Chief Executive Officer, Empower.

"Our partnership with the Jumeirah Group is a key milestone as it marks the convergence of the real estate, hospitality and utilities sectors in creating projects that are sustainable and environmentally responsible. The conversion from traditional cooling to district cooling for this capacity is the first of its kind in Dubai and has set the benchmark for other developments utilizing traditional systems of cooling."

The new cooling system in the Emirates Towers will utilize 0.90

kW of electricity for every tonne per hour, compared to the property's conventional cooling system which required 1.7 kW of energy every hour.

Construction work for the Emirates Towers District Cooling infrastructure included connecting the property to Empower's district cooling plant serving Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), a task that proved to be extremely challenging but interesting, according to Bin Shafar.

The Emirates Towers retrofit is the first phase of a 30,000 RT project that includes the renovation of cooling systems of retail, residential and commercial Jumeirah Group properties that includes Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management and Madinat Jumeirah.



Mohammed bin Rashid opens Museum of Future Government Services

The Museum of Future Government Services is a collaboration between the UAE government and the world's leading futurists, academics, and designers. It is meant to inspire and educate and provoke questions.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, welcomed guests on 8th February, 2015, at the third Government Summit, held under the theme, 'Shaping Future Governments', and attended by heads of state, senior officials of international organisations and high-ranking government officials.

In a statement, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said that the Government Summit has evolved as a major international platform and established the UAE as a global hub for government development.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, also inaugurated the 'Museum of Future Government Services,' showcased as part of The Government Summit.

Built around a futuristic, interactive, life-sized street, the Museum of Future Government Services showcases how technology over the coming years will radically transform government services in areas such as healthcare, education, mobility and smart city planning. It also features a laboratory for research, design and innovation, particularly for government entities.

The Museum of Future Government Services has been developed by an international team of 180 researchers, designers and experts from around the world, and serves as a new approach that will pave the way for citizens and

governments to work together to address future concerns.

At the opening of the Museum, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said: "Innovation is the key to prosperity, and governments must invest in research, development and innovation more than other sectors because they are closely related to the development of human life. Innovation is the best way to improve the quality of lifestyle, and it is not an option any more but an imperative, especially with the changes and rapid evolution witnessed by the world."

His Highness added: "The real development of people is fundamental to the stability of nations. The development process cannot be sustained without creating an encouraging environment to stimulate



THE MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS a positive vision of the future with governments and society working together to create a more hopeful world.

innovation to identify the best solutions for all the challenges.”

He continued: “We are confident that The Government Summit serves as a solid platform for the world to join hands in strengthening government development. We hope this annual meeting of the world’s governments will mark the beginning of a new era in international cooperation to focus on the development challenges that the world faces through an innovative model of partnership between governments, the private sector, educational institutions and research centres.

“The Museum of Future Government Services highlights that the future will belong to those who can imagine it, design it and implement it today. We cannot wait for the future; it has to be designed and built today,” pointed out

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The opening was attended by Mohammed Al Gargawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and President of the Organising Committee of The Government Summit; Khalifa Saeed Suleiman, Director-General of the Department of Protocol and Hospitality at Dubai Government; and Ahmed bin Bayat, Chairman of Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company “du”.

The Museum of Future Government Services represents a new approach to government innovation, pioneered in the United Arab Emirates. Representing a significant, design-led approach to policy and innovation, the museum uses design, prototypes and foresight to create real examples of change by engaging citizens and governments

in a new way to tackle tomorrow’s critical issues. Although the museum is the first of its kind, it represents a leading example of entrepreneurial governments embracing change and creating futuristic visions for a better world.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum toured the Museum that presents a compelling vision on the next generation of future governments and the new technologies that will be used for the first time to provide future government services as well as innovative applications that will form the pillar of the next generation of government services.

ASIMO, the most advanced robot in the world developed by Honda, displayed its capabilities before His Highness, and is a part of the Museum.

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The Museum of Future Government Services includes several sections, for example a “smart street” as an outlook for the future by using virtual reality that illustrates how the person will interact with the world around him and how to connect the world with its needs. It also helps governments to understand the public effectively and provide immediate information.

The museum also includes a section on “laboratory for future services,” adding interactive experience with future services describes cooperate opportunities between government and private sector to explore ways to develop new technologies of future services to reach customers effectively and quickly.

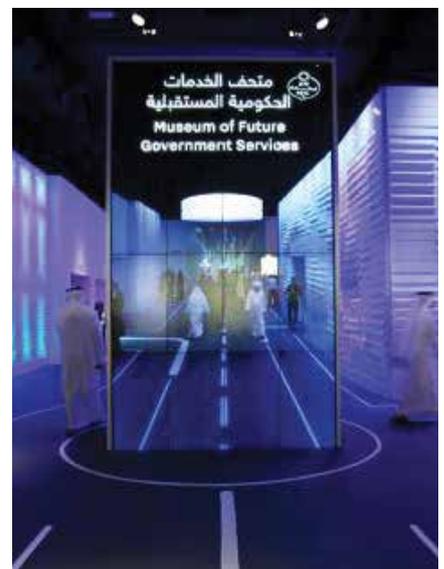
Self-driving car concepts have been developed to give a glimpse of the future

of the automotive world, integrated with intelligent systems that will bring the concept of mobility to new levels. They include “portal office for more comfortable and productive”, “services car to provide better government services to your home,” and other practical applications of self-driving cars.

It also includes the innovation “personal cloud”, developed in collaboration with MIT University, which aims to provide energy efficiency in cooling and heating the place, this section includes sensors determining the position and presence of each person to provide the needed cooling or heating to this exact point and to follow people wherever they move.

The museum also has a section called “Fitzania: a healthy and enjoyable life,” that encourages children to play fun games while conducting a

comprehensive medical examination by medical devices that include, for example, heartbeat measurement, blood pressure and others.





e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w 47

MoU signed for collaboration in Conservation Award and Environmental Programmes

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai Education Zone for collaboration, knowledge and skill exchange for mutual benefit.

The MoU, signed on 8th February, 2015, includes organising shared events and programmes in environment, health and safety in schools, in addition to participating in different environmental activities. The MoU supports the vision and strategy of Dubai Government to conserve natural resources and reduce the carbon footprint by adopting the best international standards and practices. It also supports DEWA's commitment to build strategic partnerships with local, regional and international institutions, and its corporate social

responsibility to spread awareness about the environment.

The MoU was signed by Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA, and Dr. Ahmad Eid Al Mansouri, Director of Dubai Education Zone.

The MoU enhances collaboration on the rational use of electricity and water by organising joint activities and programmes, partnering in awards and awareness campaigns and using modern systems to help reduce and rationalise consumption within the education sector.

As per the MoU, Dubai Education Zone will circulate DEWA's Conservation Award to include all educational institutions in Dubai that belong to the Ministry of Education. The Education Zone will also provide

DEWA with statistics and information about the number of its schools, students and educational institutions. DEWA will organise field visits to the schools to educate students about DEWA's scholarship programmes and DEWA Academy programmes. DEWA will also educate continuing-education students about its technical education programmes and engineering professional training programmes.

The MoU will provide programmes for adult education schools to enhance knowledge values, reading, and good citizenship to consolidate national identity and support the wise leadership's vision, and collaboration in sustainable social projects that serves the educational process in Dubai. It also enhances collaboration in other relevant topics.

Summit

48 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t y



Ban Ki-moon gives seal of approval to Dubai's low carbon development

[HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum and the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, review the progress of the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence.](#)

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, met Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations during the Government Summit, held in Dubai from 9-11 February, to review the progress of Dubai's Low Carbon Development. The meeting was attended by HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of The Supreme Council of Energy and MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). The Vice Chairman briefed the UN delegation about the programme, attended by staff from the Supreme Council and the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence (Dubai Carbon).

The Supreme Council of Energy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) started an

integrated collaboration in 2011, when an agreement launching Dubai Carbon was signed by HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum in the presence of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the Secretary General, amongst numerous dignitaries. The organisations jointly founded Dubai Carbon as a purpose vehicle to transform Dubai into a low-carbon economy and be a think tank and advisory service. Dubai Carbon facilitates knowledge transfer and capacity building throughout the UAE and the region.

"Dubai Carbon, under the umbrella of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, has deployed a strategy to reduce carbon emissions that is the first of

its kind in the region. It supports the UAE Vision 2021, to transform the UAE into be one of the best countries in the world by 2021. The strategy also supports the national long-term Green Economy for Sustainable Development initiative launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to enhance competitiveness and economic sustainability of the UAE, and make it a global role model in sustainability and green initiatives. Dubai Carbon's activities complement the Dubai Strategic Plan 2021, through the support and maintenance of Dubai's leading position at the regional level and its competitiveness at the global level, as well as Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy to reduce energy consumption by 30% by 2030," said Al Tayer.

"Dubai Carbon is at the forefront of



e s f o r a b e t e r t o m o r r o w

DUBAI CARBON CENTRE of Excellence is at the forefront of reducing carbon emissions locally and regionally.

reducing carbon emissions locally and regionally. Its core business is low-carbon advisory aimed at creating award-winning carbon management initiatives in the private and public sector, renewable energy projects, trainings and carbon credit registration under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Through carbon foot- printing and energy audits, Dubai Carbon helps organisations map out their emissions and identify opportunities for emission reductions, which result in cost efficiencies and increased revenues,” added Al Tayer.

HE Ban Ki-moon stated: “The Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence has come a long way since its establishment. It gives me great pride to see how it has developed into an influential and integral part of

the low-carbon and green economy movement in the UAE since 2011. Dubai Carbon is a prime example of a fit-for-purpose Public Private Partnership integrating competencies of different UN agencies under the leadership of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and in close cooperation with the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy.”

During the briefing, the progress on the collaboration between the Supreme Council of Energy and the UNDP was evaluated, and both sides expressed their willingness to extend their collaboration.

“Through our partnership with the UAE Government, our innovative work with DCCE and young Carbon Ambassadors, we at UNDP trust that innovative solutions towards lowering

carbon emissions, sustainable use of natural resources and greening the economy will greatly contribute to global agenda of climate change and sustainable development goals” said Sayed Aqa, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of The Supreme Council of Energy and MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) showed the competitive results that DEWA has achieved surpassing the private sector and even leading European and American companies in efficiency and reliability. “This is demonstrated by reducing losses in the electricity transmission and distribution networks to just 3.46%, compared to 6-7% in Europe and the US,” he pointed out. “We also reduced our water network’s

S Summit

50 creating green community



line losses to around 9% compared to 15% in North America, setting another international benchmark.”

DEWA also launched the energy demand strategy, which includes eight major programmes such as regulations for green building construction, Retrofitting of existing buildings, district cooling, standards and labels for Appliances and Equipment, Water Reuse and Efficient Irrigation, Outdoor Lighting, to support energy conservation, and Demand Response.

With the close support and cooperation of the UAE authorities, the UNDP has registered five Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in the United Arab Emirates. These CDM projects include a range of industrial and commercial sectors

and involve innovative renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. They now act to serve as beacon initiatives, as Dubai, under the leadership of the Supreme Council of Energy, pursues a new and highly-ambitious strategy to develop a low-carbon economy.

Since 2011, the four years of implementation have resulted in a series of initiatives. Initially Dubai Carbon provided access to environmental finance including carbon credits to government stakeholders. Soon the collaboration became so successful, that in 2013 further initiatives were established.

Amongst them is a series of annual knowledge products namely the State of Green Economy Report and the State of Energy Report, as well as

a youth-engagement programme training UAE Nationals for the challenges as future low-carbon leaders in the job market: The Carbon Ambassador Programme.

Two of these students from the Carbon Ambassador Programme, Noura Al Marzouqi and Bader Ahmed Ali Al Hammadi, were congratulated by Ban Ki-moon, as they briefly presented the achievements of all students from the ongoing programme.





Alathba Primary School playgrounds and entrance light up with solar power

State-of-the-art solar-powered street-lighting and energy-efficient floodlights have been installed by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) for Alathba Primary School for Girls in Dubai. The move supports DEWA's sustainable development strategy and its efforts to implement the rational use of energy and water, spread awareness on saving the environment, and conserve resources for generations to come.

The lights were installed at the entrance and playgrounds of the school, located in Al Khawaneej, Dubai. The school lacked sufficient outdoor lighting, which limited outdoor sporting events and other activities and programmes in the school's playground and nearby yards after sunset.

The inauguration ceremony on 2nd February, 2015, was attended by HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA and HE Dr. Ahmed Eid Al Mansouri, Director of Dubai Educational Zone.

"This project is the fruit of collaboration between DEWA, under the leadership of His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, and Dubai Educational Zone. This collaboration resulted in the efforts by the school and greatly affected the mindset of students in terms of adopting solar power and actually using it in the school. These projects will be a training hub for students in the school and a model for other schools to follow," said Dr. Al Mansouri.

DEWA sent a specialist team to review the school's playgrounds and

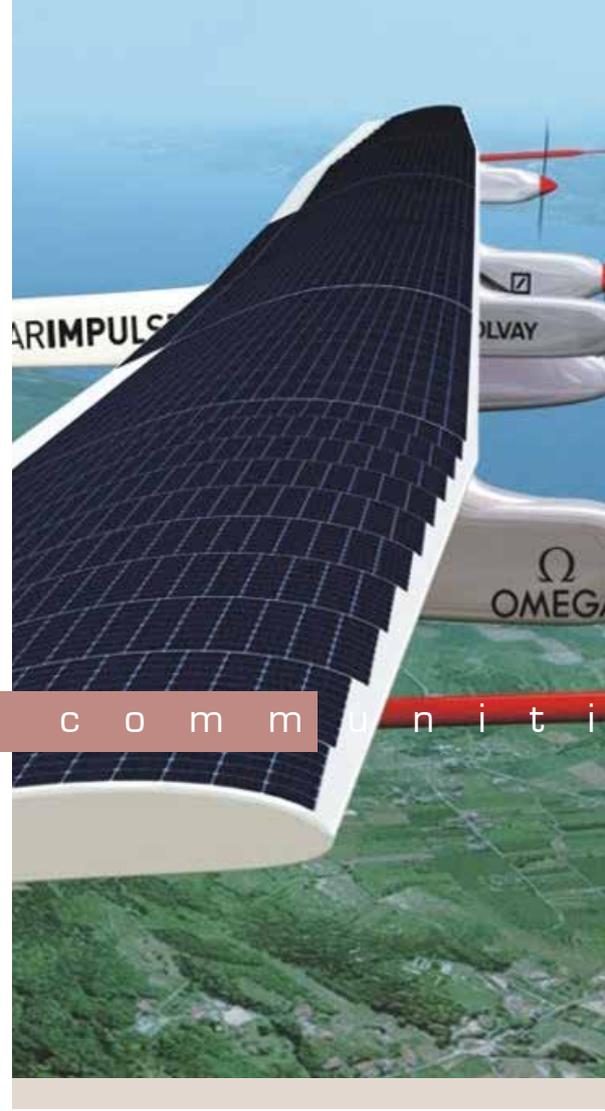
entrance and install the necessary lighting. The team assessed the premises and installed state-of-the-art LED floodlights and solar-powered street lights for the school's main entrance and playgrounds.



S Initiative

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Students from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Al Ain experience Solar Impulse 2



Solar Impulse is the only airplane of perpetual endurance, able to fly day and night on solar power, without a drop of fuel.

Andre Borschberg, the Swiss co-founder, CEO, and pilot of Solar Impulse, along with Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany, Director of Sustainability at Masdar, welcomed Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), and students from across the UAE to the Solar Impulse hangar at the Al Bateen Executive Airport.

During the initiative, which took place on 16th February, 2015, more than 500 students experienced an inspirational presentation and gathered beneath the wings of Solar Impulse 2, the only airplane of perpetual endurance and the first solar-powered plane able to fly day and night without a drop of fuel.

ADEC's Director General stressed on the importance of engaging

students in activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in order to enhance their skills in those subjects, which are very much required for a competitive future workforce.

"The UAE is expected to grow in different areas and fields, and our students will be required to compete on a national and global level. Gaining hands-on-experience and learning more about initiatives related to STEM are vital for our youth, since it helps them develop passion, knowledge and interest towards the subject matter.

This initiative not only encourages students to learn more about sustainability, but inspires them to further respect the environment as well as the power of Science which is

developing rapidly," said Dr. Al Qubaisi.

The visits brought together secondary school students from across Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Al Ain as well as Solar Impulse's young and vibrant ground crew team, and science teachers from around the Emirates.

For pilots Piccard and Borschberg, an overarching goal of their round-the-world zero-fuel flight – set to begin in March 2015 – is to educate youth with a concrete and exciting example of what science can achieve in a globalized society.

The project, in conjunction with existing sustainability initiatives in local schools, has helped raise students' aspirations while providing a real-life motivational example of science pushing boundaries.



THE LONG FLIGHTS promised by this adventure represent an additional challenge of endurance and vigilance for a single-pilot in an unheated and unpressurized cockpit.

“Solar Impulse 2 is an incredible achievement in the students’ eyes,” said Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany, Director of Sustainability, Masdar. “Masdar and Solar Impulse share a commitment to inspiring youth, promoting the values of sustainable living to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency by future leaders.

“We hope that the daring attempt will further our mission to cultivate an ethos of sustainability in the next generation, alerting them to their responsibility to care for the environment by taking simple, individual actions.”

“We were honored by ADEC Director General Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi’s participation in this event. We have a strong partnership with ADEC and we are always keen on involving youth in

our initiatives,” added Dr. Nawal.

Under the guidance of pilot Andre Borschberg and the Solar Impulse crew, students explored the plane and the remarkable photovoltaic power and storage source that helps it achieve energy-efficient flight.

Solar Impulse is hosted by Masdar and Abu Dhabi for preparations, community engagement, and test flights ahead of its five-month attempt to circumnavigate the globe without a drop of fuel. Si2 will take-off from Abu Dhabi in early March and return by late July or early August 2015. The route includes stops in Muscat, Oman; Ahmedabad and Varanasi, India; Mandalay, Myanmar; and Chongqing and Nanjing, China.

After crossing the Pacific Ocean

via Hawaii, Si2 will fly across the Continental U.S.A. stopping in three locations – Phoenix, and New York City at JFK. A location in the Midwest will be decided dependent on weather conditions.

After crossing the Atlantic, the final legs include a stop-over in Southern Europe or North Africa before arriving back in Abu Dhabi.



S Technology

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UAE to implement technology to extract water from humid air

Ministry of Environment and Water signs contract for water extraction from humid air.

The UAE Ministry of Environment and Water will implement the technology of water extraction from humid air in the development of the agriculture sector and conservation of natural resources.

Saif Mohammed Al-Shara', Assistant Under-Secretary for Agricultural and Livestock Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Water, and Golden Tsai, CEO of Horien Inc., have signed a contract to this effect at the Ministry's headquarters in Dubai. The move comes within the Ministry's framework to use technological innovations and scientific research to harness traditional water sources to address the water needs of the agricultural sector and contribute towards domestic production cycle with an aim to enhance food safety and sustainability.

Al-Shara emphasised that the Ministry is looking to keep pace with advanced technologies and systems to achieve sustainable development and give new dimensions to the agricultural sector.

It is also keen to implement innovative concepts in agricultural research to serve the objectives of the 'Agricultural Innovation Centre' that was recently opened by the Ministry.

The establishment of the centre is in line with the 'National Innovation Strategy' launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make the UAE one of the most innovative countries in the world over the next seven years by focusing on seven major sectors including

renewable energy, technology and water.

Explaining further, Al-Shara said that the Ministry has undertaken a promising experiment of extracting water from humid air in cooperation with Horien. The experiment will not only address the issue of water scarcity but would also pave way for the success of alternative and sustainable solutions that are derived from natural sources. Its positive outcome will benefit the UAE's agriculture sector by providing water for cultivation.

He added that experiments and research on traditional or modern agricultural technologies will be conducted in accordance with accepted standard and methodologies in order to evaluate



es for a better tomorrow

THE NEW FACILITY is part of the Ministry's strategy to enhance food safety in the country and promote the sustainability of local production.

the efficiency and suitability of the UAE's natural conditions. Al-Shara noted that after implementing this technology and demonstrating its effectiveness, training programmes will be designed and integrated into the agricultural production system for farmers.

Al Shara pointed out that the Ministry of Environment and Water is constantly seeking ways to strengthen cooperation with scientific and technical organisations, universities and scientific research centres, and all authorities and institutions.

It intends to do so through the exchange of successful experiences and implementation of research and studies, which will contribute towards the development and promotion of the agricultural sector's ability to

meet challenges, such as scarcity of water for cultivable land. For his part, Golden Tsai was delighted to sign the contract and expressed his willingness for future cooperation in other areas.

The Agricultural Innovation Centre, which opened in December 2014 in Sharjah, aims to attract and adopt innovative agricultural techniques to promote agricultural development.

The centre also works to forge strategic partnerships with private sector organisations, having technical knowledge in areas such as the implementation of the plans and programmes of scientific twinning and partnership in international centers, and the use of bodies, international organisations and experts in this field.

This is designed to advance the

development of systems that contributes to increased agricultural productivity and conservation of natural resources.

The new facility is part of the Ministry's strategy to enhance food safety in the country and promote the sustainability of local production.

It aims to promote the UAE's latest agricultural advancements and maintain the agricultural sector's sustainability in the UAE through state-of-the-art technological innovations, research and relevant consultations.

The venture falls in line with UAE Vision 2021, which is inspired by the National Work Programme of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.



56 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s



GFIA 2015 to outline urban agriculture strategy for the UAE capital

International public and private sector experts to address 'climate-smart agriculture' at three-day exhibition and conference.

The second edition of the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) is set to take place in Abu Dhabi from March 9-11, 2015.

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and in strategic partnership with the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), the exhibition and conference will feature more than 300 next-generation agricultural solutions that could shape the future of sustainable farming around the world.

With global policy makers and scientists tasked with identifying innovative ways to feed a population

of more than nine billion people by 2050, GFIA will aim to accelerate the development of solutions that meet the world's pressing challenges.

GFIA will bring together participants from the entire agricultural value-chain - from agribusiness and academia to policy and investment - to witness more than 400 presentations of game-changing ideas with the potential to fundamentally change the way food is produced, processed, stored, distributed and consumed.

A dedicated conference on 'Building Resilience in Urban Agriculture' will feature on the agenda of the upcoming GFIA 2015 in Abu Dhabi, strategic partners Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) announced recently. ADFCA will convene the

event in partnership with some of the world's most innovative organisations, including the RUAF Foundation, Association for Vertical Farming, and the University of Arizona.

As part of this, industry experts will convene to outline a high-level Urban Agriculture Strategy for the Abu Dhabi Capital City District. Ready with market and city spatial data, participants will examine the potential application of the full range of urban agriculture typologies to understand Abu Dhabi's fresh produce productive potential, evaluating risks and compatibility with its urban fabric.

The conference will serve as a crucial platform to review the demands arising out of the anticipated surge in population to nine billion people by the year 2050. More specifically,



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

THE GFIA CONFERENCES – featuring 250 speakers – will address a range of key issues critical to the future of global agriculture and food production.

panelists will examine the impact of challenges such as climate change, dwindling natural resources, and urbanisation on people's need for safe, nutritious food.

Comprising keynotes, workshops and panel discussions, the conference will address topics such as the creation of successful urban food-systems, technologies driving the growth and sustainability of urban agriculture, and how the best and brightest minds of the next generation could be encouraged to focus their energy and passion on feeding the world.

Hans Hassle, CEO Plantagon, a speaker at the conference, said: "With more than 70% of the world's population expected to live in cities by 2050, it is critical that urban environments start to develop their

own sources of food to avoid severe food insecurities associated with water shortages, land degradation and climate change.

"Through our participation at the dedicated conference at GFIA 2015, we look forward to exploring solutions that the world can adopt for addressing this gap and prepare for the future."

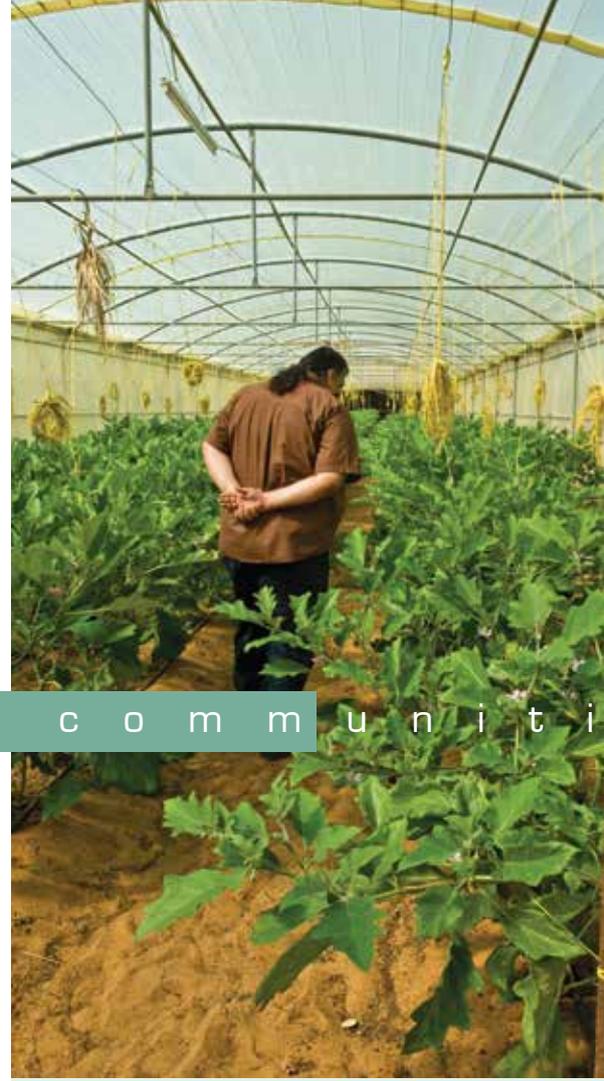
In addition to the conference on urban agriculture, GFIA 2015 will host the inaugural 'Global Climate-Smart Agriculture Summit', the largest presentation of sustainable agriculture solutions in the world.

The summit has been developed under the guidance of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture launched during the UN Climate

Summit in New York in September 2014. Climate-Smart Agriculture is a strategic farming approach designed to raise agricultural productivity whilst mitigating the effects of climate change.

The alliance includes more than 20 governments, 30 organizations and companies including the World Bank, The Netherlands government, and the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It represents millions of farmers, at least a quarter of the world cereal production, 43 million undernourished people and 16 percent of the total agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.

An international exhibition hosting 250 suppliers of sustainable agriculture technology will also serve as a highlight of the event.



Groundwater at danger level in UAE - Study

Although the UAE Water Conservation Strategy estimates that groundwater resources are kept constant at 2.3 million cubic metres per year, a new study has found that 2030 could be the first year with no groundwater resources.

Supplies of groundwater in the UAE, the country's main conventional water resource, could run out by 2030 because of demand from agriculture, scientists have warned.

"The groundwater level has declined from 60 metres to 80 metres in Al Hamaranyah and Jabal Al Heben in the Northern Emirates due to intensive agriculture activities," Ad Spijkers, regional head of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, was quoted by The National daily.

According to a study by the UAE University, the daily reported, the water table level in parts of the country has fallen by as much as 60 metres. The agricultural sector is the largest water consumer, using about 34 per cent of the total. "Also, recent data

from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi showed that the water level of Al Khazna, west of Al Ain, declined from 56 metres in September 1999 to 96 metres in January 2014.

"The water level in Sweihan also declined, from 46 metres in December 1998 to 104 metres in January 2013," he added.

The domestic and industrial water sectors use 32 per cent, forestry 15 per cent and amenities 11 per cent, with losses accounting for 8 per cent.

Groundwater supplies about 51 per cent of the country's needs, mostly for irrigation, with a limited quantity used for drinking in the northern part of the Emirates.

According to the study, desalinated water supplies about 37 per cent,

mainly for drinking and for irrigation in some areas. Reclaimed water – or treated wastewater – accounts for 12 per cent and is mainly used for irrigating amenities.

Spijkers said that feasibility studies on treated wastewater were under way.

"The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has started using it on 240 sample farms and has plans to irrigate an additional 3,000 farms in the future," he said. "Water security is priority number one in the UAE."

Although the UAE Water Conservation Strategy pictures a future in which groundwater resources are kept constant at 2.3 million cubic metres per year, the study found that 2030 could be the first year with no groundwater resources.



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR is the largest water consumer, using about 34 per cent of the total.

“Water security is intrinsically linked to food security, and the UAE and other countries with similar climate and natural water resources have an already acute shortage and can only expect things to get worse.

“The usage of water in agriculture is a matter of national importance and really significant reduction will be necessary – something the Government is taking steps to implement.”

The study, *The Challenges of Water Scarcity and the Future of Food Security in the UAE*, was conducted by Suzan Shahin, a PhD candidate in the aridland agriculture department at UAEU, and Dr Mohammed Al Yafei, the assistant dean for research and student affairs at the college of food and agriculture.

Renewed energy for Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain as it wins ‘Best Sustainable Hotel in Arabia’ award

As its environmental footprint gets ever lighter, Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain pulled its weight at The International Hotel Awards 2014, where it has won the five-star award as ‘Best Sustainable Hotel’ in two categories – for both Bahrain and the Arabia region.

The International Hotel Awards committee and judging panel, chaired by Sir David Michels, describes the winners of these awards as those who have proven they are the best nationally or internationally amongst their peers.

“Throughout the year, our colleagues

evaluate hundreds of decisions to see if there are more sustainable alternatives to be used as part of co-existing in an environment with natural resources,” said General Manager Daniel Kaan.

“The selection, investments and auditing of these projects are often challenging, but it is rewarding to see the results with awards like this and of course, the positive effects of our sustainable practices.”

Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain is the first Green Globe certified five-star hotel in Bahrain, which helped in paving the path to winning these awards. The hotel follows pre-established core criteria and guidelines for sustainability that have been adapted regionally.

S Workshop

60 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i



Big 5 Saudi to present the first 'ladies only' LEED workshop

The LEED workshops will look at core concepts and strategies, and the evolutions of LEED v4.

The Big 5 Saudi – International Building and Construction Show has announced the first ladies only LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) workshop during this year's event. The full day workshop, LEED for ladies v4 objectives and strategies, will take place on Wednesday 11th March from 9:00am until 6:15pm at the Holiday Inn Jeddah Gateway.

The innovative workshop will help those attending understand the structure of the LEED rating system and minimum program requirements, while discussing the overall LEED certification process.

During the course of the day, participants will learn about the associated concepts of each LEED credit category and gain the ability to

recognise successful LEED strategies and measurements for achieving credit category goals. The instructor of the workshop, Mario Seneviratne, will engage participants in real life LEED project examples, providing them practical insights.

LEED is a green building tool that addresses the entire building lifecycle, recognising best-in-class building strategies, with the aim of transforming thinking about how buildings and communities are designed, constructed, maintained and operated across the globe. It was initially developed in the USA but has seen adoption internationally.

LEED v4 includes new market sector adaptations for data centres, warehouses and distribution centres, hospitality, existing schools, existing

retail and mid-rise residential projects.

Saudi Arabia has made great progress in sustainability over the last decade with the formation of the Saudi Green Building Council in 2009. As the country continues its quest to become a more sustainable nation, the demand for sustainable developments has dramatically increased, in turn leading to greater need for education and training in the subject. Green building projects accounted for more than 20 million square meters at the end of 2014 and this figure is expected to double in 2015.

dmg events Event director Nathan Waugh, said: "LEED is a vital part of construction today not just globally but locally. There are a large



THE BIG 5 Saudi takes place from 9-12 March 2014, Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Saudi Arabia.

number of projects and buildings that are certified or working towards certification here in the Kingdom. As Saudi moves towards becoming a sustainable nation, we are proud to be able to use our event platform to help make sustainability education more widely available.

We regularly receive a great deal of interest from ladies looking to gain qualifications on LEED ratings, but until now we have not been able to act on that interest," he added.

Mario Seneviratne, Director of Green Technologies FZCO said: "Now that the construction industry in Saudi Arabia is implementing more sustainable buildings, the workshop offers professionals a better chance to develop their skills and implement them on projects they are working

on. This is the first year we have offered this workshop to ladies only and we are delighted to tailor these workshops for the Saudi market. The knowledge that the workshop offers will create a demand for participating professionals, with both professional certification and experience."

LEED certification is a mark of excellence and achievement in green building that has become the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

LEED certification provides independent authentication of a structure or area's green features, allowing for the design, construction, operations and maintenance of resource-efficient, high-performing, healthy, cost-effective buildings. The Big 5 Saudi will kick off on 9th March

and will conclude on 12th March 2015 and will be open 16:00-22:00 each day.





Dubai Supreme Council of Energy extends deadline for Emirates Energy Award submissions to mid-March 2015

The Dubai Supreme Council of Energy has extended the deadline for receiving applications for the Emirates Energy Award (EEA) until 15 March 2015. The decision was made due to demand from regional institutions and individuals in the energy sector to take part in the second EEA 2014-2015. Its theme is 'For a Sustainable Future.'

"The Emirates Energy Award aims to highlight best practices and leading efforts in energy efficiency, alternative energy, and sustainability in the Middle East and North Africa. The award serves as an incentive for scientific innovation and creative ideas in this sector. Due to the increasing demand and several requests to postpone the deadline, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy has extended the submissions deadline.

We want to ensure the maximum participation of innovative projects and experiences that have succeeded in energy conservation and efficiency, as well as explore alternative and clean sources of energy to reduce dependence on conventional energy sources," said HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and President of the EEA.

"The decision to extend the deadline followed the roadshows by the Supreme Council delegation across the Middle East and North Africa to promote the award and raise awareness among energy companies in the region.

The last award saw strong participation from many countries in the target areas. This year, we are recording wider participation, which

is clear evidence of the success it has achieved at the regional level," said HE Ahmed Butti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the EEA.

There are seven categories in the EEA, Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector, Energy Efficiency in the Private Sector, Large Energy Project, Small Energy Project, Education and Capacity Building, Young Professional Energy Award, and the Special Recognition Award. Each of the first six awards have Gold, Silver and Bronze categories.

Nominations are open for organisations, individuals, and teams. Eligible projects must be in operation for at least one year in the Middle East or North Africa.



Sustainable Business Leadership Forum launched

The forum included a variety of plenary sessions around sustainability in the MENA regions, as well as breakout sessions.

The first Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum was launched by the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group and held from 17th to 18th February 2015.

The Forum, a collaboration between the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG), Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and Sustainability to Action, brought together senior executives from the MENA region. This annual event seeks to support and promote sustainability across the region.

Representatives from corporations, government, NGOs and academia attended the event providing excellent networking opportunities to share sustainability knowledge to promote awareness about the latest management sustainability practices. The Forum is designed to debate

current sustainability issues and challenges that we are facing on a regional level and how to overcome those through a collaborative effort and approach. The two day agenda saw many distinguished keynote speakers, panel discussions and breakout sessions that highlighted key sustainability issues, current best practices and how to implement those practices within one's business.

According to Huda Al Houqani, ADSG's Director, the list of over 40 high caliber sustainability professionals who addressed the forum included, amongst others, HH Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Nuaimi, the Green Sheikh; H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi; Ibrahim Al Ansaari, CEO, Dolphin Energy; H.E Fahad Saeed Al Raqbani, Director

General, Abu Dhabi Council for Economic Development, and Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden to the UAE.

The forum included a variety of plenary sessions around sustainability in the MENA regions. ADSG worked actively with many sustainability professionals to promote sustainable business within the MENA regions, as part of the ADSG strategy 2014-2019, Al Houqani added.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) is a membership organization whose mission is to promote sustainability management in Abu Dhabi by providing learning and knowledge sharing opportunities for government, private companies and not for profit organizations in a spirit of cooperation and open dialogue.



Mansour bin Zayed inspects Khalifa Marine Research Centre

The Dh75 million project was launched in February 2013 by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, upon a grant from the UAE President to contribute to the protection of the UAE's marine environment and fish stocks.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, toured the Sheikh Khalifa Marine Research Centre in Umm Al Qaiwain on 18th February, 2015, which is being built as part of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan's Initiatives to protect fisheries and assure that the marine environment remains free from pollution.

Dr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water, and Ahmed Juma Al Za'abi, Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs and Chairman of the Committee of the President's Initiatives, accompanied Sheikh Mansour on the tour, which included hatcheries for diverse fish species. Sheikh Mansour said the establishment of the centre reflected

the President's attention to "our national resources as a strategic reserve for future generations." He also praised the Committee for its relentless efforts to implement the President's initiatives.

Further, Dr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water, said the government has adopted a long-term strategy to guarantee food and environmental security in order to protect, develop and sustain national resources for future generations.

The Dh75-million project was launched in February 2013 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, upon a grant from President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to contribute to

the protection of the UAE's marine environment and fish stocks.

The centre is part of the ministry's strategy to develop natural resources and contribute to food security by protecting endangered species, supporting their habitat and population affected by overfishing.

The UAE is one of the pioneers in aquaculture in the region, given its endowed natural lagoons, bays and creeks, most of which are encircled by mangrove swamps providing ideal spawning and nursery grounds for a wide variety of fish species.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, aquaculture will supply more than 50% of the world's fish consumption in the years ahead.



es for a better tomorrow

ACCORDING TO THE FAO, aquaculture will supply more than 50% of the world's fish consumption in the years ahead.

Dr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad added that with the decrease in fish stocks due to overfishing, and increasing demand for seafood, aquaculture technology has been receiving greater attention throughout the world.

The Minister noted that over-exploitation of marine resources and deterioration of some eco-systems were among the pressing challenges facing the UAE. A comparison between a study conducted by the FAO in 1978 and a GCC survey from 2008 to 2011, showed a marked fall of 25.2% in the amount of fish caught in the UAE, while fish stocks found living in lower depths dropped by 88% and 94%, respectively, in UAE territorial waters overlooking the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman.

These studies, he warned, alerted

scientists about the prospect of the disappearance of fish at lower depths if the current level of deterioration continues. Such a situation will create an imbalance in the food security situation, even as food security remains a key strategic objective of the ministry.

The Minister added that the world-class facility constitutes a qualitative addition to efforts for development of national research in conservation and protection of the marine environment and resources.

The centre, being built with a grant from the President, will begin hatching fingerlings by the end of the year.

In the first year, he added, the centre will hatch 3.5 million fingerlings from commercial fish species, 6.5 million in the following year, and progressing

until production reaches 10 million in the third year.

Also, a study will be conducted to identify the best breeding locations to release the fingerlings.





Green Flash

66 creating green communities for a better tomorrow



Sustainable Lifestyle

I was asked recently: What do you mean by a sustainable lifestyle?

I thought I should share the answer with you.

If you are keen to use water rationally when brushing your teeth, washing or taking a shower, and do everything possible to stop any leak;

If you are keen to turn off unnecessary lights, disconnect non-operating electric appliances at home or office and keep the AC temperature at 24C or above;

If you are keen to use public transport, to buy a green vehicle with good maintenance and omit unnecessary trips, in order to cut down CO2 emissions;

If you are keen to use paper on both sides, print only when necessary, take waste paper for recycling, reuse wood and plant trees to cut down emissions;

If you maintain your electronic devices and take used devices and batteries to recycling depots to reduce the problem of electronic waste;

If you are keen to buy and consume food and other goods rationally, avoiding fancy packaging and non-recyclable/non-degradable containers;

If you are keen to sort your waste at home/office and put each category in the right place for reuse and recycling, aiming to reduce dumped waste to the minimum;

If you are keen to buy consumer goods which need minimum water, energy and packaging for production, transport, marketing and display;

If you adhere to the Green Buildings standards for construction of your house with the aim of minimizing operation costs, environmental impact and health risks;

If you are careful about the health and safety of your home and office environment, making sure of good ventilation and safe use of chemicals, minimizing waste, buying furniture and appliances that emit little or no chemicals or radiation and teaching your children the environmentally friendly behavior and practices;

Then we can say that you are living and leading a sustainable lifestyle.

These concerns were discussed at the "1st Dubai International Forum for Sustainable Lifestyles" which was organized in February 2015 by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program and under the patronage of the Ministry of Environment and Water as a part of the UAE National Environment Day celebrations. The Forum presented and analyzed best individual and group initiatives to change the daily practices towards more sustainable lifestyles and the means of spreading such practices to become a common culture in all communities worldwide.

We need to promote sustainability in all aspects of life in order to ensure sustainable economic growth and easy life for all in a safe & healthy environment. We have been talking about sustainability since 1987 when the report of "Our Common Future" was released, but today we need to practice it more than ever before as Climate Change is directly affecting the world economy via pollution & natural resources depletion in line with the explosion of the human population.

We definitely have enough knowledge to make our buildings, cities and daily practices sustainable.

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor

Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



THE EMIRATES APPRECIATION AWARD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment is accepting nominations for the 2nd Cycle of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment, which is worth one million dirhams, in the following 5 categories and 8 sub-categories:

Environmental Personality Award	AED 200,000
Industrial Enterprise Award	
Large Industries	AED 100,000
Small & Medium Industries	AED 100,000
Educational Institution Award	
Universities and Higher Institutes	AED 100,000
Schools	AED 100,000
Innovation, Invention and Environmental Research Award	
Innovation/ Invention	AED 100,000
Research which has been applied	AED 100,000
Media and Environmental Awareness Award	
In Mass Media	AED 100,000
In Organizations/ Foundations/ Agencies	AED 100,000

For more information please visit:
<http://www.zayedprize.org.ae/emirates-appreciation.html>

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