



# EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment©



With the start of the holy month of Ramadan, I would like to wish everyone a month of blessings. May the essence of this blessed month inspire us all to contribute to the betterment of our societies.

EEG witnessed the conclusion of three major programmes by the end of April. The month observing the **Earth Day** is very momentous to EEG. The theme **“Protect Our Species”**, is very significant as it is vital to spread awareness and educate all on the dwindling numbers of species and biodiversity across the globe. The rate of extinction of various flora and fauna is extremely alarming.

## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

March to celebrate the **Global Recycling Day**, called for various entities across the UAE to collect old mobile phones for recycling. As the scientific progress expands; the accessibility and use of technology increases, the mounting growth of e-waste is more prevalent. This year a total of 2,426 pieces of mobile phones were collected for recycling, a **152%** increase compared to last year. The **“Your Can For a Tree”** project was launched at the beginning of April. I encourage everyone to participate in the project and deposit Aluminium Cans for recycling. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the ever popular programme, **“One Root, Once Communi-tree”** will come to an end on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. I urge all our members to show commitment to sustainability and the environment by participating in these projects and as an incentive, plant indigenous tree saplings under your name in December. Read further updates in the EEG News pages.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of April, EEG concluded its short but extremely cherished project the **“Green Call”**. The programme was launched in

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, to celebrate Earth Day, EEG conducted the **“19<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition”**. The two day event saw **68** teams with over **400** students attending and participating in the event. Under the slogan **“Critical and Educated Discourse is the Path to a Solution!”** the students from all corners of UAE, competed under four different topics of Food Waste, Healthcare, Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence linking it to sustainability. In addition, the students presented their testimonials on how their chosen topic is linked to the Earth Days theme to protecting the species. The Overall winner for this year's competition was the team from the **Sunrise English Private School** who deservedly took home the rolling trophy for the year 2019. I am also proud to mention that we were happy to receive international students from the Education University of Hong Kong as volunteers for this prestigious event. On the other hand, the Judging for the Environmental Drawing Competition was also held on **15<sup>th</sup> April**. With over 2000 drawings received from more than 500 schools all over the UAE, The winners of the competition will be announced at the awarding ceremony to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

As part of our outreach programmes, EEG visited and attended various events, met with numerous stakeholders, and gave presentations to various sectors. EEG has attended the Career Fair at Canadian University, gave presentations at Al Bustan, Dubai Natural History Group; met with Environmental Center for Arab Towns, as well as several of its corporate members and strategic partners, etc.

I am also delighted to inform you that, EEG participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Dubai Quality Awards, under the category of **“Responsible Entity”**. EEG was declared as one of the 2019 winners and received a crystal and a certificate signed by H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and ruler of the Emirate of Dubai.

I am extremely joyed to see that EEG has taken significant strides towards spreading environmental literacy across the UAE, by involving all members of the society from students as young as 6 years old. We will continue to spread awareness and mobilise the community by working together for a better environment.

Engage in GREEN  
Discussions

visit us at facebook  
[www.facebook.com/eeg.uae](http://www.facebook.com/eeg.uae)

follow us on twitter  
[www.twitter.com/eeg\\_uae](http://www.twitter.com/eeg_uae)

visit our website  
[www.eeg-uae.org](http://www.eeg-uae.org)

EEGDUBAI

**BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:** Every SATURDAY, 9:00AM to 4:00PM.  
Villa No. JMR. 68, Jumeirah 1, Between Dubai Zoo and Beach Centre.  
For more info, call EEG at 04 344 8622, or email [eeg@emirates.net.ae](mailto:eeg@emirates.net.ae).

**Editorial Team:** Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Varun Vishnuprasad, Carlo Cuarto, Jipson Joy, Vishnu Sunil Kumar  
Designed by: Rajeev Rajan

**Responsible Entity Category Winner 2019**

Dubai Quality Award is not just another initiative an organisation can embrace; it is a framework that ensures that all different initiatives are pulling in the desired direction. The Dubai Quality Award, initiated in 1994, is based on the Excellence Model used by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). The latter has been successfully applied in European private and public sector organisations since 1992.

EEG participated in the ‘Responsible Entity’ category and was declared as one of the 2019 winners! EEG received a crystal and a certificate signed by H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. EEG is delighted to have won the award in the first cycle of its application and will continue to strive for excellence as it always has.



**EEG meets with Environmental Center for Arab Towns**

EEG team met with a delegation from the Environmental Center for Arab Cities (ECAT) on 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. The meeting was held to discuss all avenues of cooperation between ECAT and EEG.

ECAT is an organisation that visions Arab Towns with healthy, pollution-free environments and aware, involved societies and their main mission is to work together to preserve the natural and urban environments and protect them from pollution in the shadow of sustainable development

During the meeting, ECAT commended EEG and praised them on the experience of the group in the field of environmental work, especially educational programmes such an environmental public speaking competitions conducted by EEG targeting schools and universities across the UAE and the MENA region. EEG was happy to discuss their outreach methods with ECAT and look forward to collaborate with them in the near future.



**EEG Staff lunch**

As a team building activity and appreciation to all the staff, EEG regularly organises staff lunch every month. It is not an easy task to spread awareness and engage all sectors of the community in the field of environmental sustainability. Celebrating accomplishments, and successful events encourages and motivates the team to continue persevering the goals of EEG.

This lunch held on 4<sup>th</sup> April was specifically to commemorate the retirement of one of EEG staff Mr. Anil Kumar, who has been with EEG for a decade. In short the lunch was delightfully exquisite with Indian cuisine. Many of the EEG staff members, who are from various ethnicities, was able to try new dishes and expand their taste pallet. The lunch concluded with all the members giving gifts to the retiree and expressing their gratitude for his service to EEG. We wish Mr. Anil Kumar all the best and a great success in life.



**EEG Speaks at Dubai Natural History Group**

Emirates Environmental Group attended the Dubai Natural History Group monthly seminar held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, as a guest lecturer to educate, raise awareness, answer questions and participate in an open discussion on recycling in the UAE. The EEG team talked about the various sustainability initiatives that the families can be involved with and the methods through which they can actively participate as concerned members of society. EEG also answered various questions on the myths and best practices to follow while recycling, including the right types of materials and how to segregate correctly. EEG was delighted to be part of this event and look forward to future meaningful collaborations with the DNHG.

**EEG attends Career Fair at Canadian University Dubai**

Emirates Environmental Group was invited to attend the annual career fair of Canadian University Dubai on 10<sup>th</sup> of April. The event hosted various companies and organisations in order to connect the youth at the university with real life work. Whether the students were first years or ready to graduate, the event was met with inspired passion and vigour. The career fair provided students with an intermediate platform where they had the opportunity to practice their interviewing and personal development skills. Students were encouraged to present themselves in an appealing manner, where they showed up immaculately dressed, well-prepared with CV’s in hand, and ready to commit to challenges ahead. EEG met with some very inspired and passionate young students from various educational backgrounds like Environmental Health Management, Public Relations and even Computer Sciences and Programming. Most of these students had previous work experience, however they showed interest in participating with EEG as volunteers and interns. They were driven to gain experience at EEG, and some emphasised that they were passionate about a career in the environmental sector. Flyers and handouts were given to interested individuals, where even professors visited the EEG booth to gain more information and participate in EEG events. Overall, it was a very well-organised event, with participation of well over 200 students, and more than 40 placement applications at EEG alone.

**Sheikh Khalifa Excellence Awards (SKEA) 2019**

The Sheikh Khalifa Excellence Award (SKEA) is a prestigious event that dates back to 1999 when it was created by the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ADCCI). The objective of the Award is to recognise entities that are looking for continuous improvement and thereby, improving the competitiveness of the Business Sector in Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

SKEA was the first programme in Abu Dhabi to be aligned with international best practices and to have adopted the EFQM Excellence model. This year, EEG Chairperson joined this prestigious platform as a member of the Jury team on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April.

**EEG visits the world's largest integrated e-waste recycling facility**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, the EEG team lead by Chairperson Mrs. Habiba Al-Mar'ashi visited the new integrated e-waste and specialised recycling plant where they met the CEO and Co-Founder of EnviroServe Mr. Stuart Fleming. The new plant is located in Dubai Industrial Park and it's the world's largest e-waste facility. The facility utilises a state of the art Swiss technology which surpasses EU standards for e-waste. The facility accepts all types of electric waste and electronic equipment. This includes air conditioners, computers, household appliances, mobile phones and military avionics, they are also specialised in other waste materials such as aerosol cans and light bulbs. The recycling hub process's more than 100 tons of integrated waste per year which is all recovered and put back to use in the market with zero liquids and air emissions. The EEG team got the opportunity to learn about the e-waste recycling hub and to observe the recovered materials and the different types of waste being recycled in the facility. EEG congratulated Enviroserve on opening its largest integrated e-waste recycling. EEG will collaborate with Enviroserve by promoting and implementing new recycling programmes, adding to the already existing programmes.



**EEG Prepares to award the winners of the Environmental Drawing Competition**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, EEG's education department conducted the judging process for more than 2000 wonderful entries received as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Environmental Drawing Competition. To make the tough decision of determining the winning drawings in the regular and special needs category, EEG Chairperson invited the famous UAE artist Dr Najat Makki and two professional artists from the Dubai International Art Centre to the EEG office. Upon the conclusion of the careful examination of each entry, the judges selected the top 9 drawings in each age category. EEG looks forward to welcoming the winners of the Competition to the special ceremony for the project, which will take place in the Ismaili Center on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.



**EEG attends a workshop conducted by Dubai Chamber and Du.**

On 18<sup>th</sup> of April, EEG attended a workshop organised by Dubai Chamber and du called "Effective Branding and Communications for Community Initiatives", focusing on how community organisations can be creative in branding and communications of their great work. The session was introduced with brief overview of Engage Dubai Programme, part of an international network of community organisations that collaborate to support the development of healthy and sustainable communities by volunteering.

The interactive and interesting workshop was conducted by Executive Vice President of Brand and Corporate Communications from du through a series of sample scenarios and questions to the attendees. It was cited that the expectations for this workshop were the methods on how to increase the presence of the organisation, how to market to corporate businesses with minimal or no budget at all.

The key points that were discussed included:

- To create an association with big players to capture their interest and to establish a partnership which mutually benefit both organisations.
- To create an Advisory Board by targeting specific segments, identifying the person and preparing an individual letter to invite them.
- To collaborate with Social Media Influencers and gain more exposure to organisations and increase value to the social media influencers. There should be a need to choose the right person and real ones. It is not about the number of followers, but the target market of that influencer to get engagements.
- To promote programmes by the word of mouth, which is a basic yet an important weapon which can be good and bad and can cause a ripple effect. It was highlighted that telling a story with a human touch is the key for stakeholders and people to be interested, more engaged and to be relatable.

**One Root One Communi-tree Campaign Reaches New Heights EEG successfully concludes the project "Green Call"**

Phase 1 of the engaging "One Root, One Communi-Tree" project was rolled out for Student Members and Academic Institutions from the 19<sup>th</sup> of January until the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. Under this project, the participants who deposit a pre-set target of recyclable materials will be eligible for a certificate and as an additional bonus, trees to plant at the end of the year. Till the 31<sup>st</sup> of April, 81 academic institutions & Companies and 108 student members have registered. A total of 212,819 kg paper, 532 kg Aluminium Cans, 748 pcs toners, 8292 kg glass, 11 pcs mobile phones and 7,854 kg plastic has been deposited, which led to the participants being eligible to plant 107 trees under their names. The meaningful campaign has numerous positive benefits as it allows the participants to display their contribution towards sustainability. Do not miss out on the opportunity and enroll yourselves in the "One Root One Communi-Tree". Register via link: <https://forms.gle/BbeENWNuiiu1QJrGM9>

The 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 marked the conclusion of EEG's popular project "Green Call", which aimed at celebrating the Global Recycling Day, a meaningful occasion with a mission of driving awareness and action around the urgent need to recycle. The participants of the project were required to deposit their old mobile phones and tablets for recycling. The successful 2019 cycle of the project received 131 registered schools, corporate entities and student members, successfully doubling last year's participation. The project managed to collect a remarkable 2426 mobile phones for recycling. The participants who demonstrated their commitment towards achieving the set targets within the one-month time period and are now eligible to plant 73 tree saplings under their name on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 as part of EEG's For Our Emirates We Plant ceremony.

**Your Can for A Tree**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2019, EEG launched its popular Your Can for A Tree project for all sectors of the society to utilise the platform and submit Aluminium Cans for recycling in return for an opportunity to plant a sapling of an indigenous tree under their name. The project will run until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, with the minimum targets to receive a tree set at 50 kg for individuals, 200 kg for academic institutions and 225 kg for corporate entities. EEG urges the community to realise the benefits of recycling and work towards achieving the overall objective of zero waste in landfills and encourages all of its readers to register for the significant project. Click here to sign up now: <https://forms.gle/2jsYUmgj7GNZ3jzF9>

**Students of Education University of Hong Kong volunteer with EEG**

Emirates Environmental Group was proud to collaborate with students of Education University of Hong Kong (EUHK) this April as a part of the university’s Service Exposure for Global Awareness (SEGA) Programme. The SEGA Programme offers numerous opportunities to students who are interested in exploring local and international social phenomena and social issues under different social contexts. As part of the programme, the students must liaise with an NGO and volunteer with them to complete their 100 hours of volunteer service.

The EEG was happy to host the students of EUHK for a volunteer meeting. On 18<sup>th</sup> of April, EEG staff met with the students for a meeting and it was decided that the students will volunteer at EEG’s two-day event, the 19<sup>th</sup> Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition (ISEPSC). There were 23 students in total, and all were given various tasks to do at the competition. 12 students were asked to volunteer on the first day of ISEPSC, while the remaining 11 were asked to join the second day of the competition.

The volunteers’ tasks included helping the competing teams register and receive their badges, guiding them in and out of the auditorium, keeping the auditorium quiet during speeches, timing the speeches, taking notes during the event and keeping an overall order at the event. EEG’s Chairperson Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi presented the students of EUHK with a token of appreciation at the end of each day of ISEPSC, as she invited them on stage to be met with a big round of applause, their certificate of appreciation and a group photograph. The students of Education University of Hong Kong were a valuable addition to this year’s ISEPSC, as their presence took the event to another level.

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition!**

EEG organised the most important, and dynamic celebration of Earth Day in the region, through the 19<sup>th</sup> Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition. This unique grassroots educational platform, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April at the Dubai Knowledge Park, highlighted global issues around food waste, artificial intelligence, healthcare and climate change. More than 400 students and faculty from schools across the UAE joined hands to compete, educate and learn together for a better environment.

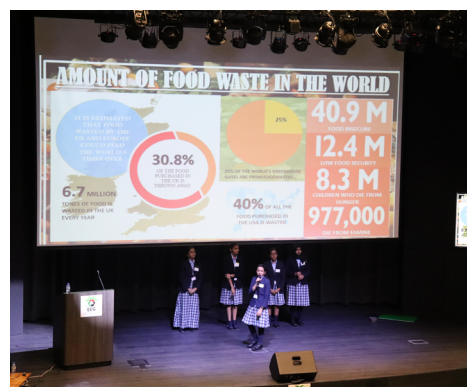
The two-day event welcomed diverse nationalities from 68 different UAE medium schools, enabling knowledge exchange. The teams were scored based on their originality and the creativity of their presentation and their vocational skills by a bi-lingual jury of environmental experts. The topics chosen for the competition highlighted the growing environmental concerns across a plethora of important sectors, encompassing the UN SDG No 2, 3, 4, 8 and 13, which touch upon the topics of Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well Being, Green Development and Climate Action. EEG covered the entire event on their social media, using the hashtags eegtalks and earthday 2019, with all the students connecting their chosen topic with the Earth Days’s theme, Protect Our Species, further spreading the message of sustainability.

In the Sub-Senior Category for students between the age of 13 and 15, Islamia English School won under the topic of “Food Waste Management: Achieving Zero Hunger” and Our Own High School, Al Warqa’a (Boys) received the winning title under the topic of “Healthcare and Sustainability”. In the Senior Category for students between the age of 16 and 18, Sunrise English Private School won under the topic of “Artificial Intelligence and the Environment” and Our Own English High School (Girls), won top spot under the topic of “Climate Change: Reversing the Tipping Point”.

Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi, along with the Judges awarded the winning team from the Sunrise English Private School as the Overall winner for the 2019 competition with the Rolling Trophy, granted the awards to the team from Islamia English School and Our Own High School, Al Warqa’a, who tied as the First Overall Runner Up and the team from the The Millennium School, Dubai, who received the Second Overall Runner Up.

The competition also served as a unique platform that promoted artistic talent through the performances. The opening ceremony on the first day of the competition witnessed the special needs students from the Senses Centre Dubai, who performed songs for the entire auditorium and captured their attention by setting joyous mood for all. At the closing ceremony on the second day, the students from the GEMS Modern Academy, performed a classical Barathanatyam dance, Alarippu, enchanting the room with the colourful outfits and intricate rhythmic movements. In addition to this, EEG also welcomed 24 students from The Educational University of Hong Kong, who joined the competition as volunteers all the way from Hong Kong, as part of their Service Exposure for Global Awareness (SEGA) Programme. As the “Year of Tolerance”, EEG has once again brought together youths from multicultural backgrounds from both all UAE and abroad, to attend and participate in this unique competition that spread environmental literacy to all.

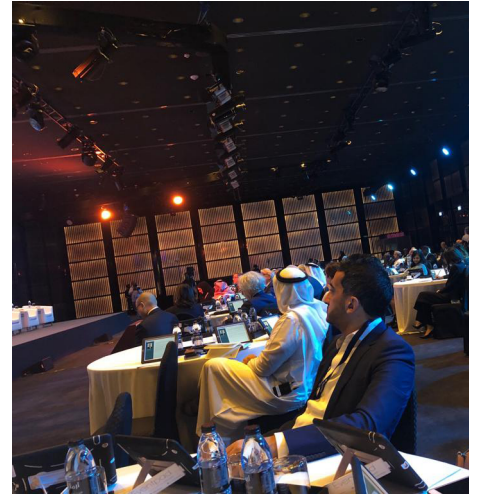
EEG thanks Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) as the main sponsor for the event, Dubai Knowledge Park for providing venue for this prestigious competition and Al Jazeera International Catering for providing the catering services. Furthermore, the programme was certified as Carbon Neutral, by offsetting 9.04 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, courtesy of EEG’s corporate member, Farnek.



**Hawkamah Annual Conference**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, EEG Chairperson attended the Hawkamah and ICSA 2019 Annual Conference in Dubai which was on the topic ‘Towards Sound Corporate Governance and Sustainable Growth: Strengthening the Role of Companies in Society’. The conference explored how good corporate governance practices enabled the government, the private sector, and government-owned enterprises into supporting sustainable economic growth in the face of rapid change and growing economic pressures. Other areas discussed also included questions regarding what made the region unique (or similar) with other markets as they dealt with companies with similar corporate structures? How could regional organisations adopt good international practices given all the structural, institutional and culture challenges? How could decision-makers strike the right balance that would elevate good governance practices beyond mere compliance, and ensure that good governance actually added value?

The speakers, moderators and panelists at the conference included specialists and experts in their respective fields. Some of these included the Board Chairman of Hawkamah ,Executive Director of the Oman Center for Governance and Sustainability, Senior Fellow of the Harvard Law School and Associate Director of Harvard Law School Program on Corporate Governance, Associate Professor of Accounting at the National University of Singapore, Company Secretary, FCIS; Sonya Janahi, Board Member of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and many others.



**Global Airport Leaders Forum**

The Global Airport Leaders Forum is an event that brings 1,000 professionals from across the global air traffic management industry together in order to discuss the most important issues faced by the sector. The current edition of the Forum was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. EEG chairperson was one of the speakers, she was invited to talk on diverse issues such as ‘Smart Airports and Sustainability’, ‘Environmental Integrity’, ‘Carbon Offsetting’ among others.

**EEG attends Tristar workshop**

EEG’s new corporate member and longtime associate - Tristar conducted a workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> April at the Movenpick Ibn Battuta Gate Hotel on the UN Global Goals. The event was attended by government and corporate entities in the region that are active players in the implementation of SDGs in the region. The workshop dwelled into all the 17 SDGs with speakers from UAE and abroad talking about its importance and their implementation strategies. The workshop also introduced and talked about the policy framework of the UAE and its role in the SDGs by highlighting the key points from the report published by the government on its progress: ‘UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT’.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Arab Youth Survey 2019**

The launch of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Arab Youth Survey was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April at the Ritz Carlton DIFC. Over the course of 10 years, the annual ASDA/A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey has offered a unique insight into the attitudes and aspirations of the region’s biggest demographic- the youth. EEG chairperson attended the event. The survey included youth from the six Gulf Cooperation Council states (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE), North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia), the Levant (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) and Yemen. The aim of the survey is to provide evidence based insights to the public and private sector and civil society institutions vital feedback and analysis to inform to feed into their decision-making and policies.

**EEG meetings and collaborations**

In April in addition to the attendance and participation at various events mentioned previously, EEG also met with various private and government entities to collaborate for the same.

EEG staff were happy to meet -

- Al Bustan Centre & Residence on 14<sup>th</sup> of April
- ABB on 17<sup>th</sup> of April
- Masrhreq Bank on 18<sup>th</sup> of April
- Nestle on 24<sup>th</sup> of April
- Dubai Public Prosecution, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank & German Imaging Technologies on 28<sup>th</sup> April



**CAMPUS NEWS**

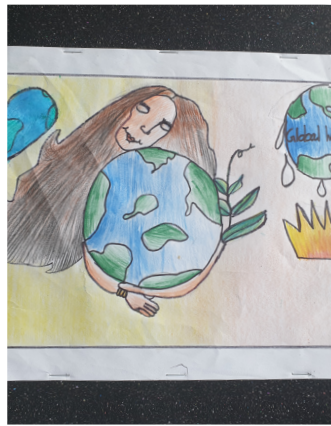
**British Orchard Nursery awarded at the 25<sup>th</sup> Business Excellence Awards**

Dubai Orchard Nursery (BON) was awarded 3 Prestigious Awards at 25<sup>th</sup> Business Excellence Awards by Dubai Economy on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Madinat Arena. Two of their branches has received the “Dubai Human Development Appreciation Award” and another the “Dubai Quality Appreciation Award”. The founder and CEO of British Orchard Nursery thanked all the parents, partners and the team at BON for making this unique achievement and the UAE leadership and Dubai Economy for recognising their efforts.

EEG congratulated British Orchard Nursery for achieving this great feat, and hope to continue collaborating with them under EEG’s waste management programmes.

**EEG student member show her creativity during Earth Hour**

EEG's student member Paveethiraa Manivelan has drawn this at the Earth Hour 2019 as part of her enduring message to protect the environment. Her message is to care for the Earth.



**EEG student member has won the prestigios Sharjah Awards for Educational Excellence.**

EEG congratulates Ruben Simon Roy, for winning Sharjah Awards for Educational Excellence. We wish him all the luck in his future endeavours and hope to see him continue in the pursuit of educational and environmental literacy.

We hope all our student members to take this as a wonderful example to actively take part in EEG's educational and waste management programmes and persevere towards great goals.



Sharjah Private Education Authority congratulates

**Ruben Simon Roy  
Delhi Private School**

For winning the  
Sharjah Award for Educational Excellence  
25th cycle  
Distinguished Student Category  
Grade 11

TEL : 065045444  
EMAIL : INFO@SPEA.SHLAE

**LOCAL NEWS**

**The Environment monitors large numbers of green turtles in Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah**

The recently issued The National Plan of Action for the Protection of Sea Turtles in the UAE 2019-2021 by the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, reported the siting of number of green turtles and falcon turtles in the water of UAE.

Despite the fact that very little is known about the green turtle population in UAE, research and aerial surveys have shown that, there is vast presence of the green and falcon turtles in the waters of Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Kahimah, due to the sheer amount of seagrass habitat found in these area. In 2009 there were over 7,000 turtles in the water of Abu Dhabi. The Environment and Nature Reserves Authority in Sharjah are also monitoring the mangroves in Khor Khalba, where green turtles are present. The plan highlighted the importance of intensive regional efforts to develop management measures to protect these species of endangered turtles.

**UAE to increase its share of renewable energy to 50% by 2050**

As the Middle East and Northern African region faces various environmental challenges from waster scarcity, air pollution to climate migration, the leaders have renewed their commitment to take action to tackle climate crisis and climate change. Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates said that, "We should not wait until someone else tells us whether he believes in climate change or not. We have to roll up our sleeves and start the work we need to do." UAE has set a target to increase the share of clean energy in the total energy mix from 25% to 50% by 2050. UAE is also investing in energy efficiency, water conservation through humidity transfer and cloud seeding, and solid waste management.

Blended finance is essential to scale up investment in green opportunities. Managing Director of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The EBRD has so far invested \$30 billion to date in green projects, reducing carbon emissions by 100 million tonnes annually. In the MENA regions 60% of the fun has gone to Benban Solar Park in Egypt, which will the world's largest solar installation. Germany has a model for a cleaner future, as now 40% of their energy mix is from renewables. A green economy provides great opportunities for entrepreneurs. Managing Director of the UAE-based Desert Control Middle East, has pioneered a method to enhance the capacity of dry soils to retain water. This will enable farmers to increase their crop yield using 52% less water. The company is aiming to treat 5 million square kilometers of desert by 2030, with a direct impact on the livelihoods of 100 million people. Recognising the potential of such technology to support the transition in to circular economy. UAE represented by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, in partnership with Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence, has committed \$1 million to support SCALE 360

**ICBA Global Forum on Innovations for Marginal Environments**

ICBA has announced their second Global Forum on Innovations for Marginal Environments which will be conducted in 20-21 November 2019. The forum focuses on the critical up-coming challenges on the human race in terms of the expected rise in human population as by 2050 the world population is expected to reach 9.8 billion, and the need to produce enough food to feed those people. The challenge lies in the decrease of arable land globally and the decrease of water resources and thus the production of food will not be enough to feed those masses. The Forum will focus on the potential of Marginal environments in bridging the gap, and it will serve as a platform for exchange of knowledge on the latest advances in research and innovation for agriculture and food production in marginal environments. The main theme of the form will be: analysing and assessing the current scale and impact of various abiotic stresses in marginal environment, share of successful examples, strategies and policies, form linkage and partnership between various national, regional and international initiatives targeting marginal environments and facilitate dialogue between policymakers and development agencies. Other sub-themes include salinity management, sustainable usage of natural resources harnessing crop diversity and novel biotechnologies in addition to other themes.

**Expo 2020 will enhance the waste management in Dubai**

Expo 2020 aims to divert 85% of all the waste from the event away from landfills. Dulsco has joined hands with Expo 2020 to help achieve this target. All the organic waste generated at the site, which comprises of about 48% will be converted to compost. The recyclable materials such as paper and cardboard will be recycled and moulded in to materials such as cup holder, gift boxes and seed pots. On the other hand, glass bottles and plastic will be upcycled into bags and T-shirts, by collaborating with local medium enterprises. Furthermore, 95% of construction waste is already being diverted from landfill to be reused in other low level manufacturing. According to Dulsco CEO, Expo 2020 will be the greenest Expo ever, with a legacy that helps push Dubai's sustainability goals for the years to come.

### ***The Environment Agency Lauches Green Business Network***

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has launched the Green Business Network - a platform for public and private sector organisations in Abu Dhabi to learn, promote and share environmentally-friendly practices in the workplace. The initiative aims to empower large corporations and small to medium size enterprises to make a greater collective contribution to the emirate's sustainable development plans.

The core objective of the platform is to foster dialogue and action to encourage responsible business activities in the UAE, in response to trends in consumption, government policy and costs that point to greater green business opportunities in the years ahead. The Green Business Network will primarily focus on key priority areas such as marine water quality, air quality, biodiversity and waste.

The Green Business Network will be introduced as an offline tool but will ultimately develop into an online repository containing helpful resources that members can use to help each other achieve their sustainability goals. Members will also be provided access to the holistic Climate and Sustainability Action Guideline for Businesses and Government that has been developed by EAD to fit the local UAE context, as well as relevant case studies, regular updates and information on new legislation, best practice and latest innovations in sustainability. They will also be invited to attend a series of workshops and networking events geared towards increasing collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the community. The Green Business Network is now open for registration. Those interested, kindly follow the link [greenbusiness@ead.ae](mailto:greenbusiness@ead.ae)

### ***Dubai Municipality expands wastewater treatment plant capacity.***

Jebel Ali sewage plant has completed its second phase of the expansion. With a capacity of 375,000 cubic meters of water at this stage, it can irrigate 6,250 hectares of cultivated land. The expansion will cover the Expo and can accommodate the continued and future population growth. Combined together, Warsan plant and the Jebel Ali plant have reached a million cubic metres of wastewater per day. The expansion has a 25% reduction in energy consumption and produces 232 billion cubic metres of irrigation water.

Furthermore, the project also converts 21,900 tonnes of solid waste rich in nutrients into suitable fertilisers that can also be used as biofuels.

### ***Impact of Climate change on public health an important topic in UAE***

Minister of Climate Change and Environment, while hosting the 10 leader's roundtables as part of the High-Level Meeting on Climate and Sustainable Development under the theme Climate - Health Nexus, he stated that, "As my country is hosting the global preparatory meeting for UN 2019 Climate Summit, I am personally committed to ensuring that we raise awareness of this crucial nexus. The right to health is a key human right, as outlined in the preamble to the Paris Agreement. Climate change impacts all aspects of human health and wellbeing, including air quality, food security, access to clean water, and health care infrastructure."

He also pointed out that the UAE along with Norway, WHO and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, is aiming to launch the Climate-Health NDC initiative at the UN 2019 Climate summit to be held in September. This initiative will create a coalition of countries that are in favour to form a concrete policy reforms that address the health risks of climate change.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### ***UN Environment Launches the sixth Global Environmental Outlook***

Considered one of the most important environmental events of the year, UN Environment launched recently its sixth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6) The report (also known as the 'most comprehensive and rigorous assessment on the state of the environment') calls on policy and decision makers to take immediate action to achieve the SDGs as well as other Internationally Agreed Environment Goals, such as the Paris Agreement. Unfortunately, the most pressing finding from the report is a warning that if the damage to the planet is not reversed, human health will be increasingly threatened. The Global Environmental Outlook, which was first launched in 1997, is a significant environmental document as it collectively brings together scientists, peer reviewers and collaborating institutions and partners, under the umbrella of environmental action and sustainability. This year, the report was developed by 250 scientists and experts from more than 70 countries.

Some of the major findings of the report included:

- Pollutants in freshwater systems will see anti-microbial resistance become a major cause of death by 2050;
- Endocrine disruptors will impact male and female fertility, as well as child neurodevelopment;
- If environmental protection is not scaled up immediately, regions in Asia, the Middle East and Africa could experience millions of premature deaths by mid-century.
- 33% of global edible food is wasted, and 56% per cent of waste happens in industrialized countries, the report states.
- And most importantly, at present the world is not on track to meet the SDGs by 2030 or 2050.
- EEG would like to congratulate UN Environment on this comprehensive report and looks forward to the recommendations being adopted by countries across the globe.

### ***UN Environment Launches the first Environmental Rule of Law Report***

An in-depth session on the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and its Framework Document was held as part of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

**Why is this relevant?**

According to sources, an average of 8 million tonnes of plastic waste is dumped in oceans every year and nearly 80% of the world's wastewater is discharged without treatment. As marine litter and micro-plastics are found in all the world's oceans and seas, even in remote areas far from human contact and obvious sources of the problem, the time to act is NOW.

**What is the Global Partnership on Marine Litter?**

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) gathers international agencies, Governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, civil society and individuals to find solutions to this growing problem. Organisations can apply to be a part of the GPML or contribute in the form of financial support, in-kind contributions and/or technical expertise.

We congratulate the UN Environment Programme on this wonderful endeavour and look forward to witnessing all the relevant work conducted by them in the upcoming decade.

### Fossil fuels fit into a circular economy

Pieter Hoff describes the concept of a circular economy in the first part of this article. He discusses that fossil fuels are just remains of plants and single-cell animals, which have been compressed over time. In their lifetime, these plants would have consumed CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. The oxygen would be released back into the air and the carbon would be stored in wood, fruits and in the soil as humus. As a result of bacterial action, low-oxygen, and high pressure conditions over time, hydrogen bonds form with the stored carbon, and result in formation of CH<sub>4</sub> (Methane), C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> (Ethane) etc., which when burned, release energy - we call these fossil fuels. Once burned, the carbon from these fossils is released back into the atmosphere, binds to the oxygen in the air, and results in production of CO<sub>2</sub>. By planting trees, Hoff suggests that this CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed back into the soil through photosynthesis. This is what is called the circular principle of Mother Nature. By fertilizing 2 billion hectares of degraded soil, Hoff believes that we can return all the CO<sub>2</sub> produced from fossil fuel burning all over the world, back into the soil. He then goes on to emphasize that simply dumping CO<sub>2</sub> waste under the ground, as some countries are doing, will disrupt the circular economy of CO<sub>2</sub> recycling. With reforestation, not only are more jobs created, but the circular economy is allowed to run its course, and climate change is also prevented.

### PUBLICATION NEWS

As one of the prominent and active environmental NGO in the region, EEG receives monthly newsletters from various local, regional and international entities. All the information that we receive from the publications are extremely valuable and help us keep up to date with all the significant events that are held across the globe linked with discussions, education, innovative idea etc....

As we are unable to write all the news in our newsletter, and taking into consideration that not all the readers of our newsletter have same interests in news, we have taken the liberty to include the links to these publications for your perusal. EEG thanks all the entities who send us their publications. It was a wonderful journey to read all the events that were held in late March and the month of April, significantly impacting the spread of environmental literacy.

#### IUCN

- Island invasive: scaling up to meet the challenge - [click here](#)
- Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sports venues - [click here](#)
- IUCN 70 years : International Union for Conservation of Nature annual report 2018 - [click here](#)

#### GPCA

- Insight Express - [click here](#)

#### CEBC

- CEBC announces new board of directors for 2019-2020 - [click here](#)
- Future Mobility Club - [click here](#)
- Annual Survey Report - [click here](#)

#### WFES

- [click here](#)
- A Better World. Actions and commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals - [click here](#)
- A Rising Africa in a Fragile Environment: The Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security - [click here](#)

#### UNEP

- A Better World. Actions and commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals - [click here](#)
- A Rising Africa in a Fragile Environment: The Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security - [click here](#)
- Gender Action Plan - [click here](#)

#### DNHG

- April Publication- [click here](#)

## EEG's MEMBER RENEWAL/NEW JOINEES

As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

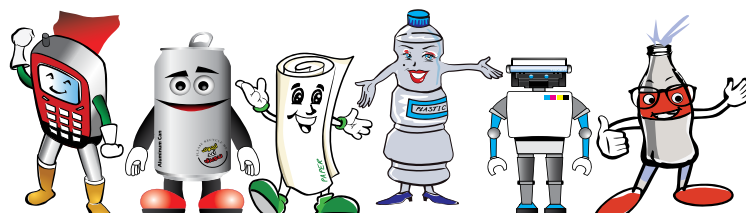
EEG warmly welcomed 1 renewed academic member, 14 new and 10 renewed student members in the month of April

### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP			
		Dovecote Green Primary School LLC	Renewal
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP			
Fathima Suraj	New	Agnij Anand	Renewal
Aashika Singh	New	Cheryl Leah Mathew	Renewal
Aman Satapatny	New	Kenishaa Subash	Renewal
Ananya Iyer	New	Khushi Paresh Dholakia	Renewal
Gauri Unnikrishnan	New	Maitri Dharmendra Lalai	Renewal
Joseph Manoj Chittilappilly	New	Nandini Shivakumar	Renewal
Justanne Jibin	New	Nehan Naseem Ali	Renewal
Mohammed Anwar	New	Riya Gupta	Renewal
Parichay Sachdev	New	Sanjana Sampathkumar	Renewal
Saraswati Uppu	New	Sreeparvathy Anand	Renewal
Shashank Subash	New		
Sthairya K Shetty	New		
Twarita Verma	New		
Ved Shanbhag	New		

The collection of materials for recycling in the month of April, resulted in the following benefits:

- » GHG Reductions 419 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)
- » Saving of 2,785 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 618 m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 3,708 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 8,271 Gallons of Gasoline



<b>PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 103,635 kg of Paper from 344 participants during the month of April 2019, an increase of 12% compared to March 2019. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2019 so as to enable us to work towards our 2019 target. The Top Collectors were:	GEMS United Indian School	5,220	Satvik V	2,920
	Delhi Private School Dubai	3,590	Sameer Ahmed	1,080
	Our Own High School - Al Warqaa (Boys)	3,330	Rahul Nilesh Megchiani	1,050
<b>PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 6,248 kg of Plastic from 149 participants during the month of April 2019 an increase of 7 % compared to March 2019. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2019. The top collectors for the month were:	Our Own High School - Al Warqaa (Boys)	210	Ananya S. Iyer	134
	American School of Creative Arts & Sciences	180	Menwa Abdulla	74
	Ajman School for Secondary Education	90	Lacksana Karthikeyan	70
<b>GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 6,462 kg of Glass Bottles from 40 participants during the month of April 2019, an increase of 50.6% compared to March 2019. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2019. The Top collectors were:	American University of Sharjah	35	Kashvi Verma	110
	-	-	Mana Al Suwaidi	32
	-	-	Rishit Singh	30
<b>MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Schools	Quantity (pc)	Families	Quantity (pc)
EEG has collected 2,370 pcs of Mobile Phones from 55 participants during the month of April 2019, an increase of 3662% compared to March 2019. We thank our participants and encourage them to collect more for the year 2019. The Top collectors were:	Our Own High School - Al Warqaa (Boys)	325	Justanne Jibin	111
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	140	Shivani Adduri	91
	Rosary Private School	92	Sivadurga Adduri	62
<b>CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 351 kg of Aluminum Cans from 22 participants during the month of April 2019, a decrease of 1% compared to March 2019. The top collectors for the month were:	-	-	Varun Pabreja	15
<b>TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>				
EEG has collected 18 pcs of Toners from 4 participants during the month of April 2019, a decrease of 98 % compared to March 2019. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2019. Let us work together to recycle toners and divert the plastic and metal materials from ending in the landfill.				

EEG invites all its members & participants to intensify efforts for the year 2019 to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment and achieve the set targets for the above campaigns.