



EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment©



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DEAR READERS, ACADEMIC & STUDENT MEMBERS,

Please be informed that following the decision of the Ministry of Education to implement e-learning in schools until the end of June, EEG has taken the decision to postpone the Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition to the 2nd half of the year.

Watch this space for more details

Engage in GREEN
Discussions



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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Another month has passed with the world struggling to find future course of action needed to overcome the challenges that lie ahead of us, economically, environmentally and socially, in the wake of corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic. As the world is reeling under the pressure of (COVID-19), the good news is that there is a healthy drop in air pollution, which has resulted in a 25% reduction in CO₂ emissions from **3rd February** to **1st March**, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), an air pollution research organisation.

The CREA report adds, a fall in oil and steel production and a 70% reduction in domestic flights have contributed to the fall in emissions. Global air traffic has decreased by 4.3% in February alone with cancellations of tens of thousands of flights globally and locally.

However, as the virus has developed to a full-blown global pandemic which means that economic crash is to follow shortly, it could easily drain money and political will from climate efforts, which would spell disaster for a sustainable planet. Let us not forget that improved air quality alone will not help us to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, concerted efforts must continue despite the bleak situation. Perseverance and patience hold the key to overcoming the alarming health situation that the world is facing.

On the EEG front, we began the month with an optimistic note by conducting our major corporate event, the 23rd Annual Gala Dinner which was held on **4th March** under the kind patronage of HE Eng. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Civil Aviation Department and Honorary Member of EEG, and in the presence of the guest of honour Her Excellency Eng. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of State for Food Security at the beautiful grounds of Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort. The annual event was attended by more than 200 invited entities and VIP guests, comprising ambassadors, consul generals, and high profile government officials, EEG Honorary & Executive Committee Members, partners and sponsors. The event also marked the 30th Anniversary of EEG under the theme '**Beyond 30 Years: Going to the Next 30**'.

We also launched an action oriented project, our annual month-long **Green Call** which began on **20th March** and will conclude on **20th April**. This is one of our unique recycling projects that enable the members of the society to give away their old mobile phones, iPads and Tablets in exchange for an opportunity to plant a native tree sapling on 20.12.20.

Students, companies and academia are the major participants in this campaign with each category having to meet a specific target in their collection of used devices.

Let me take this opportunity to invite all of you, especially the gadget-loving people, to join the 5th cycle of the Green Call Project. With most of us working from home and having less working hours due to (COVID-19) outbreak, let us set aside some time to do some spring cleaning and gather unwanted smart devices and be part of global efforts to restore nature.

The **8th of March** is celebrated globally as International Women's Day. EEG joined the celebrations held on the sidelines of the **Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture Graduation Ceremony** at the International Centre for Bio saline Agriculture headquarters in Dubai on **8th March**.

I also attended the **1st Business Group & Business Council Round Table Discussion** for the year 2020 at the Dubai Chamber's premises on **12th March 2020**. The President and CEO of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce held a lively discussion with regards to the impact of the COVID-19 on the business in the country.

Another flagship recycling activity of the month was the **Paper Walk**, which we organise on the sidelines of **Earth Hour** every year. Joining the global efforts to contain the spread of corona virus we decided to conduct it in a different format. We urged participants through our social media platforms to deposit their collection of paper at EEG office as part of Earth Day commemoration, which falls on **28th March** every year. As many as **54** participating entities and individuals visited EEG office over the course of the week and handed over **4,928** kg of paper, which included newspapers, cardboards, books etc.

On the educational front we extended the process of accepting submissions from schools and students for the **Annual Environmental Drawing Competition** for which a deadline was set on **31st March**. The new deadline is **9th April**. We have also taken the conscious decision of postponing the awarding ceremony for this programme to the month of June 2020. As for the Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition, it will be held on **9th – 10th November, 2020**.

Let us join hands together for a better environment, and dedicate our attention and resources to alleviate fears over the highly contagious coronavirus. EEG has since the beginning of March adopted a rotation system for its workforce, whereby the office has been running with half capacity but nevertheless we are working actively to deliver quality content and provide effective platforms to our members to advance the achievement of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals in line with the directives of the UAE leadership.

Stay healthy, safe, positive and let us all work together for a better environment.

UAE Minister of Food Security praises EEG during 23rd Annual Corporate Gala Dinner

Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) hosted its 23rd Annual Corporate Gala Dinner under the patronage of HE Eng. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Civil Aviation Department, Member of the Executive Council of Ras Al Khaimah Government and Honorary Member of EEG, and in the presence of HE Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of State for Food Security, as the guest of honour and keynote speaker at Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort on 4th March. The 23rd annual event was attended by more than 200 invited entities and VIP guests, comprising ambassadors, consul generals, high profile government officials, EEG members, partners and sponsors. The gala event also marked the 30th Anniversary of EEG, it was held under the theme of **‘Beyond 30 Years: Going to the Next 30’**. As many as 48 organisations, from both the public and the private sectors, were recognised for their outstanding support to EEG during the year 2019. H.E Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, in her address said, “It’s amazing to know 30 years have passed with such achievements, and I salute EEG and Habiba Al Mar’ashi for their wonderful job. I look forward to their next 30 years with optimism.”

Habiba Al Mar’ashi, Chairperson of EEG, welcomed the guests of the evening and said, “Thirty years is a long time by any measure. What brought us here is your support for us, and our belief in a greener and sustainable future. EEG would not be a force to reckon with, but for the countless members, partners and associates that had an unshakeable faith in our mission and our capacity to deliver on our objectives and goals. I thank you all for standing with us, now and for the past three decades.” Mrs. Habiba revealed during her speech that EEG’s ‘Clean Up UAE Campaign,’ since its inception in 2002, was able to collect 1,514,953 tonnes of waste. As many as 782,562 people have also taken part in this campaign. She said: “I have no hesitation in saying that no one else offers this type of nationwide community action platform like us. We are also the second country globally, and the first in the Arab World to hold nationwide clean up drives.” H.E. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan Al Saqr Al Qassimi – Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation – RAK and Honorary Member of EEG, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al Kindi – Former Minister of Environment and Water, and Dr Radhiya Al Hashimi – Executive Committee Member of EEG, stood on stage to reward the entities for their relentless support to EEG throughout the year 2019. The Carbon Neutral Event served a variety of mouthwatering healthy dishes and desserts to the guests.

A Snapshot of 23rd Annual Corporate Gala Dinner held on 4th March



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Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Sustainability Partner



EEG Chairperson Moderates Emirates GBC Breakfast & Networking Event

What are the opportunities and challenges the UAE faces as it transitions to a circular economy? Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Chairperson of EEG, Co-Founder, Management Committee Member and Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council, moderated a panel discussion on the topic of "The Circular Economy in the Built Environment" at the Emirates GBC Breakfast & Networking Event hosted by Shaw Contract, a corporate member of Emirates GBC on **2nd March**.



The Chairperson, while briefing the topic to the audience, said, "Globally, we face increased pressure on our natural resources as populations grow and global consumption rises, and our current economic model, a linear one, is no longer viable. The concept of a linear economy is risky and unsustainable because it focuses on the 'take-make-waste' approach which has significantly drained our natural resources, increased environmental pollution and accelerated climate change."

With the building and construction sector estimated to be using two-fifths of the world's energy and material flow and contributing between 13–30% of its waste, there is a growing awareness within the government and private sectors that industries need to move further into circular economy that aims at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources, which facilitates sustainable development.

The panelists of the discussion, which was held exclusively for EGBC members and partners, included Manager of Marketing at Emirates Steel, Head of Sustainability at Middle East Multiplex, Regional Vice-President of MEA Shaw Contract and an experienced Waste Management Expert who shared their views on how circular economy principles are being incorporated into the construction and building sector.

EEG Attends Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting

On **5th March**, EEG attended UNEP's Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting via webinar. It was chaired by H.E. the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil and was well attended by Member States and stakeholders from across the board.

The Secretariat mainly focused on the following during this meeting:

- Draft elements of a decision on the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities
- Update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030
- Implementation of UNEA decision 42/, paragraph 14

The Secretariat provided attendees with the progress made by three partnerships under the GPA banner: The Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and the Global Wastewater Initiative. Another important agenda item was an update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030.

The Decade's vision is to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation – for all terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The UNGA invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions and other relevant entities.

AWLA Graduation Ceremony held at ICBA HQ

Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Chairperson of EEG, attended a graduation ceremony for the first cohort of fellows of the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) programme hosted by International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) on **8th March** in celebration of International Women's Day. Managed by ICBA, the first-of-its-kind programme, is designed to empower women researchers to spearhead positive changes in agriculture and food security while addressing the challenges they face in their careers.



The first cohort included 22 women scientists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. They completed a 10-month programme from 2019 to 2020, which was delivered through 12 online R&D modules and face-to-face workshops in Tunisia and the UAE. AWLA's long-term goal is to improve food security and nutrition in the region through empowering women researchers and helping them realise their full potential.

The programme contributes to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on Gender Equality (SDG 5), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life on Land (SDG 15), and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). Funded by the Islamic Development Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CGIAR Research Programme on Wheat, AWLA supports women scientists from the Middle East and North Africa.

1st Business Groups & Business Councils Meeting of Dubai Chamber

Habiba Al Mar’ashi, Chairperson of EEG, attended the Dubai Chamber’s 1st Business Groups & Business Councils Roundtable Discussion for 2020 held at Dubai Chamber of Commerce premises on **12th March**. EEG took part in the meeting, the first of 4 roundtable meetings for the year 2020, as one of the working group members of Dubai Chamber. In his opening remarks, the President & CEO of Dubai Chamber of Commerce gave an outline of the present activities of the Dubai Chamber. The Senior Manager, Business Relations of Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in his speech, presented a recap on last year’s final roundtable meeting.

The other major highlights of the roundtable meeting included the updates on the much-awaited Dubai Expo 2020, presented by Senior Manager, International Business Engagement, EXPO2020; and a discussion on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors. Dubai Chamber’s senior representative from the Chinese office gave a brief history of the COVID-19. The next roundtable discussions will be held in June, September and December. The meetings allow the business councils and groups to share their views and ideas on doing business in Dubai.

EEG joins the world to mark Earth Hour digitally

Considering the exceptional situation prevailing due to COVID-19 outbreak, EEG joined the world to observe Earth Hour digitally. Earth Hour is an annual event when people across the world switch off lights for an hour from **8.30pm – 9.30pm** local time. The Earth Hour, which began in 2007, aims to reduce ecological footprint around the world as the rate of global loss of nature during the past 50 years has been unprecedented in human history. The event has sparked global conversations on protecting nature and encouraged nations to frame policies that reduce rapid loss of biodiversity.



Dubai Water and Electricity Authority (DEWA) rolled out the local version of the initiative in 2008, and since then EEG has been an active participant of the international movement to tackle the threats posed by the increased levels of CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere that lead to climate change and to raise awareness about environmental issues amongst the members of the community. EEG also started the Paper Walk activity to promote awareness about recycling on the sidelines of the Earth Hour activities. However, since DEWA cancelled the event at Marasi Promenade in Business Bay to counter COVID-19 pandemic in line with the precautionary measures taken by the UAE government. EEG, instead, invited participants to drop their collection of waste paper at its office in Jumeirah latest by the **29th March 2020**, EEG also urged the community to observe Earth Hour in the comfort of their homes. As many as 56 participants visited EEG office over the course of the week and handed over 6,574 kg of paper, which included newspapers, cardboards, books etc.

One Root One Communi-Tree

EEG rolled out its popular year-long project “One Root, One Communi-tree” on **20th January**. The phase 1 of the project will continue till **20th May 2020**. Witnessing incredible contributions every year, the participants who deposit the materials for recycling, display their social responsibility and positively contribute to the global targets of reducing the production of waste thus reducing the overall GHG emissions and reduction of the landfill space required to dispose waste. Phase 1 of the project targets EEG Student members, Academic members and corporates. The duration of each participant is two weeks; so for those who manage to meet the target qualify to receive a certificate and a tree to plant under their name on **20th December 2020**. So far, **118** students, **41** academic institutions and **77** corporates have registered to be a part of this campaign, out of which **35** students, **8** academic institutions, **40** corporates have already met their targets securing a grand total of **246 trees**.



255,501 kg
Paper



1,075 kg
Aluminium Cans



10,952 kg
Glass Bottles



1,150 pcs
Toners



8,101 kg
Plastic



287 pcs
Mobile Phones

Reduction

The collection resulted in

Saving



1,022 MT CO₂e



1,204 m³ of landfill space



6,477 Million BTU of energy



4,579 trees



1,393 gallons of gasoline

You can still register and participate via the following link: <https://forms.gle/ba2q7Jzq6qJaMim66>

Environmental Drawing Competition

Emirates Environmental Group launched its 14th cycle of the annual “Environmental Drawing Competition - EDC 2020” in the 1st week of January and has extended the deadline to the **11th April** taking into consideration the closure of schools because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. EDC aims to guide the student community to express their thoughts and ideas in their own distinct and creative way, to demonstrate a sense of care and respect for the environment. The unique, one of a kind national level competition acts as a platform for students of certain age groups to direct their environmental passion and express it through art. We look forward to celebrate the winners of this unique programme, on 8th June in celebration of the World Environmental Day alongside the Emirates Recycling Awards.



EEG Student Members Win Distinguished Hamdan Award

Several EEG Student Members made it to the 22nd cycle of the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance award announced on **9th March**. We are proud to say EEG Student members were chosen for Distinguished Student Award, one of the nine categories of the Award held between December 2019 and February 2020. The winners will be honoured at a ceremony by the end of April. In the student category, the Hamdan Award evaluates the performance of students by giving a weightage of 10% to academics and 90% for talent in five skills, three hobbies, seven activities, one noble cause and three leadership roles, including community activities.

Distinguished Teacher, Highly Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished School, Distinguished Family, Distinguished Educator, Best Scientific Innovation, Best Implemented Project, and Education Supporting Institutions are the other categories of the prestigious Award. A total of 114 distinguished winners from the educational sector have been named in the 2020 edition of the Award. We congratulate the winners and hope this will inspire a whole new generation of students to come on board as EEG members to work together for a better environment, and win accolades.

Students create ‘green reservoir’

Three students from the American School of Creative Science in UAE – Sharjah Created a ‘green reservoir’, an innovative water purification system to rationalise water consumption by using a natural powder extracted from soybeans. The project also helps to reduce its waste rate by 40% with the help of Polyglow, the powdery substance made from soybeans, by adding it into the water tanks. The students say “Polyglow purifies the polluted water and makes it drinkable, as this material sticks to the dirt, substances and harmful organisms in the water, and gets them precipitated at the bottom of the tank to be filtered.” The Emirati students, Isra’a Al Hamad, Mahra Al Balushi, and Leila Al Hashemi are seeking to do more research on the project, including designing a portable version for private use. They hope their innovation could be one of the solutions to address the water scarcity problem in many countries.

Egyptian students transform plastic waste into marble

In a big move, students from Zewail City of Science and Technology, an independent learning institution in Egypt, managed to recycle high density polyethylene (HDPE) bags into marble. The cost of ‘Plastic Marble’ is around \$4 per square meter while the natural marble costs \$18 per square meter. In addition, the environment friendly “P marble” is of higher quality than natural marble. It is a solid marble that is unbreakable, heat and acid resistant, and is flexible to control its thickness and shape. This innovative project reduces the burden of ecosystem as it helps to rid the environment of plastic waste that takes hundreds of years to break down. It also obviates the need for the expensive natural marble, which undergoes a chain of process in its manufacturing, which is detrimental to the environment as well as the quarry workers. The team is aspiring to go for the mass production of their innovation by attracting the attention of marble traders and interior designers and asking them to replace natural marble with this eco-friendly product.

LOCAL NEWS

More sea turtles find home in Kalba Reserve

Home to the oldest natural mangrove forest in the Region, the Khor Kalba Mangrove Conservation received 14 green sea turtles recently. Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) released the green sea turtles to the waters of Kalba Mangroves Conservation as part of its efforts to protect the species from extinction. In 2014, sea turtles made a return to Sharjah’s east coast after a 30-year absence, and EPAA teams are on a mission to protect and conserve their natural habitat. The EPAA is also trying to increase the population of the endangered species. The EPAA team found a nesting site in 2012, and launched a scientific study to understand the species’ lifestyle, and the suitability of the Gulf of Oman as their habitat. EPAA found the presence of green turtles nesting in areas close to Mangroves Conservation. EPAA then started providing them with necessary care, attached tracking devices and started releasing them to the water. The Khor Kalba Conservation, one of the oldest and largest natural green sites on the east coast in the UAE, is also home to other endangered species, including the Egret and Woodland Kingfisher.

ICBA scientists start analysing 190 genotypes of Quinoa at Dubai research centre

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) started analysing 190 genotypes of quinoa at its research station in Dubai after it joined hands with Max Planck Institute, Germany, and the BGI Group, one of the world's largest genomics companies, to conduct genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of the super crop. Quinoa's exceptional resilience to harsh environments and nutritional profile have earned it a reputation as the super crop, and it does well in saline soils and drought-prone and water -scarce agroecosystems.

The research at ICBA's Dubai centre focuses on specific traits including tolerance to different levels of salinity, flowering duration, plant height, branching, seed yield, seed weight. The main goal is to ultimately breed high-yielding early-maturing (90 - 100 days) quinoa varieties with high levels of abiotic (salinity, drought, and heat) tolerance for marginal areas; as well as develop associated best management practices and optimum post-harvest management practices. Under GWAS, ICBA is also working to develop sweet varieties of quinoa with reduced content of saponin, a compound which makes grains bitter. Saponin can be removed by repeated washing or dehulling, but these methods increase post-harvest processing costs. Although there are a few quinoa genotypes with low saponin content, their performance has not been found to be very good under marginal conditions of the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Central Asia. Since 2007, ICBA has been leading a global programme on quinoa jointly with national and international partners to evaluate the plant's performance under marginal conditions.

Abu Dhabi to ban single-use plastic soon

In a path-breaking move, Abu Dhabi government decided to implement a two-year long strategy to make Abu Dhabi free of single-use plastic bags by 2021. Under the policy, authorities plan a legislation to limit the use of all plastic materials in Abu Dhabi through a phased approach with incentives, then introducing fees for single-use plastic, and finally move towards a total ban. The strategy is a tribute to the legacy of the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed, who had a deep passion for preserving the environment and achieving sustainability. The comprehensive policy, announced by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), the first-of-its-kind in the region, aims to eliminate the use of 16 avoidable single-use plastic items including bags, beverage cups and lids, plastic cutlery, straws and stirrers and food containers by 2021, and mitigates the harmful effects. Under the no-plastic strategy, residents will be encouraged to participate in a plastic bottle return deposit scheme under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of EAD, to foster a culture of recycling and re-use in the community. By implementing the no-plastic strategy, in co-ordination with government and private stakeholders, Abu Dhabi will be joining more than 127 countries around the world that have already taken measures to ban or limit the use of disposable plastic materials. Meanwhile, UAE discards three billion plastic water bottles and 11 billion plastic bags annually, according to Bee'ah, an integrated environmental, recycling & waste management company based in Sharjah. Studies show that 36% of the global production of single use plastics is not recycled and globally more than 400 million tonnes of different types of plastics are produced every year.

An agricultural crisis looming

Several European governments called on job seekers to apply for many vacancies in the agricultural and food industries, which lost their foreign workers due to the closure of the borders of European countries to limit the spread of the Corona virus. The agricultural sector in Germany lost about 300 thousand workers, and in France, the Minister of Agriculture called for the formation of what he called the "shadow army" to include any unemployed person or he was temporarily laid off to work in the fields. He stated: "We need 200,000 people today, and the owners of the farms will treat them very well on the simple condition that they want to work hard," and he stressed that filling the shortage in this employment would be "national work, civilized work." The President of the Federation of French Farmers, said that foreigners who used to come to work in the harvest season could no longer come to France because of the Corona virus.

The Art of Fixing!

According to recent data from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Seventeen million tonnes of textile waste was generated by Americans in 2017. Only about 15% of textiles were recycled, this means landfills received 11.2 million tonnes of municipal solid waste textiles. Home economics is no longer taught in many schools; and sewing machines are no longer a whirring fixture in the home. Especially since the rise of fast-fashion chains, a tear in a shirt or dress often spells its end. Only a few generations ago, socks were routinely darned, sweaters mended and pants patched. You could buy a sewing kit at any drugstore, and knowing how to use it was a mark of good housekeeping.

Visible mending is a personal, small-scale, possibly futile response to the overwhelming problems of mass consumption and waste. There are numerous how-to books, like *Visible Mending: Artful Stitchery to Repair and Refresh Your Favorite Things*, and the forthcoming *Mending Life*. Visible mending is also a practical response to the rising interest, especially among Gen Z, in buying and wearing second-hand clothes and up cycling, since used clothes often have flaws. Now fashion brands, perpetually in the business of convincing shoppers to buy new clothes, are also promoting longevity. Eileen Fisher, A.P.C. and Toast, to name a few, have programmes for swapping, repurposing or mending clothes. Ace & Jig, the women's label that makes its own yarn-dyed woven textiles, gathered up garments with tears or other flaws and had them visibly mended by skilled sewers before selling them online.

Earth Day 50th anniversary goes digital

In the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Earth Day Network postponed its live 50th anniversary Earth Day event to 22nd April to ensure the health and safety of participants and volunteers. This April event will mark the first Digital Earth Day and aims to mobilise millions of people globally to address the issues related to climate change digitally. Through the online campaign, the Earth Day Network conveys a message to the world: we cannot shut down the efforts to protect our planet and its inhabitants even in dire circumstances.

UN NEWS

Faith for Earth releases 2019 Achievement Report

United Nation Environment Programmes' Faith for Earth Initiative released its 2018 - 2019 Achievement Report. The report highlights the progress Faith for Earth has made towards the attainment of its three overarching goals:

- 1) Strengthen Partnership with Faith-Based Organisations' Leadership for Policy Impact
- 2) Green Faith-Based Organisations' Investments, Operations and Assets
- 3) Establish an Accessible Knowledge-Based Support System

In a short span of time, the Faith for Earth has grown to include more than 3,000 representatives from more than 300 organisations. Till date the entity has organised 8 global conferences, 16 workshops, it has mobilised \$1 million in-kind contributions, planted thousands of trees, accredited 42 organisations, and signed 5 partnership agreements and much more...

UNEP NEWS

**Ricky Kej: music to inspire social change and sustainable living**

On 6th March UNCCD Land Ambassador Ricky Kej, world-famous Grammy Award winner, US Billboard Number One artist and environmental activist, visited Europe's sustainability hub to involve young and adult audiences to discuss about sustainable living and environmental responsibility. While at Christophorusschule to show a new wildlife documentary "Wild Karnataka," Ricky discussed with an audience of 11 - 14 year olds how to protect nature by becoming a conscious consumer. The artist himself chooses not to own a car, he uses public transportation instead and adheres to a vegetarian diet and supports products that are manufactured by environmentally responsible businesses that source their materials without harming the environment. The documentary, for which Ricky composed the music score, was filmed in his native state of Karnataka in India and features a stunning variety of animal species. The movie, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, has achieved box-office success, competing with Bollywood blockbusters. "Wild Karnataka" is an engaging celebration of wildlife, giving the audience a strong impulse to protect habitats, ecosystems and all life on land.

UNCCD NEWS



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Engaged with various entities in the UAE and gave presentations and conducted meetings. EEG Welcomed 1 renewed academic member, EEG also Welcomed 7 new & 14 renewed Student members in the month of March 2020

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

The Apple International School, Dubai	Renewal		
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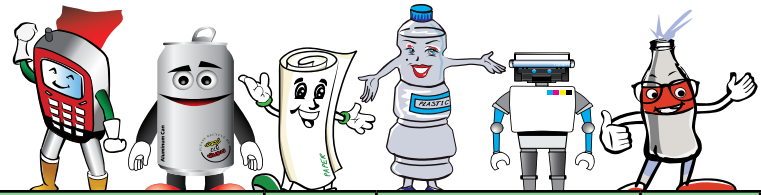
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Saher Vibya Kumar	New	Madhav Manoj Vachali	Renewal
Dhvani Malay Shah	New	Aishwaryaa V.P.	Renewal
Trivaran Moodley	New	Hetvi Gandhi	Renewal
Toshith Bhaumik	New	Philip Serrao	Renewal
Prashil Shah	New	Nimrah Mohammed Hussain	Renewal
Hala Mujahed Haj Hussein	New	Aritra Ghosh	Renewal
Kshitij Dhariwal	New	Aarush Kora	Renewal
Vibha Kamath	Renewal	Sthairya Karunakar Shetty	Renewal
Abhishek G. Pai	Renewal	Abraar Mohammed Hussain	Renewal
Kashvi Verma	Renewal	Archita Pal	Renewal
Isha R. Nair	Renewal		

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME - MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

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

- » **GHG Reductions 288 (MTCO₂)**
- » **Saving of 1,979 Million BTU of Energy**
- » **Saving of 469 m3 of Landfill Space**
- » **Saving of 1,249 trees from being felled**
- » **Saving of 229 Gallons of Gasoline**



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 70,545 kg of Paper from 327 participants during the month of March 2020, a decrease of 26% compared to February 2020. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2020 so as to enable us to work towards our 2020 target. The Top Collectors were:	Abu Dhabi Men's College	2,120	Vidyuth Balaji	3,376
	Delhi Private School Dubai	2,050	Sujith Sudeep	875
	Hind Bent Maktoom School	1,621	Kriti Kamath	848
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 310 kg of Aluminum Cans from 39 participants during the month of March 2020, a decrease of 94% compared to February 2020. The top collectors for the month were:	Delhi Private School Dubai	14	Simarjit Singh Pannu	18
	Umm Ammar Kindergartin	12	-	-
	-	-	-	-
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 5,343 kg of Plastic from 169 participants during the month of March 2020 a decrease of 2 % compared to February 2020. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2020. The top collectors for the month were:	United International Private School	230	Maryam Bin Hammad	114
	Abu Dhabi Men's College	120	Namaa Ismail AlZarooni	71
	Dubai National School	105	Nia Tony	68
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 4,681 kg of Glass Bottles from 49 participants during the month of March 2020, a decrease of 40% compared to February 2020. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2020. The Top collectors were:	American University of Sharjah	165	Maryam Bin Hammad	110
	El Ekhlass Kindergarden	20	Raghav Bhatia	105
	College of Fashion & Design	11	Alex George	82
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 61 pcs of Mobile Phones from 3 participants during the month of March 2020, an increase of 17% compared to February 2020. We thank our participants and encourage them to collect more for the year 2020. The Top collectors were:	Hind Bent Maktoom School	17	Trisha Nikhilkumar Sayani	30
	Bright Riders school Abu Dhabi	14	-	-
	-	-	-	-
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 48 pcs of Toners from 6 participants during the month of March 2020, a decrease of 86 % compared to February 2020. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2020. The Top collectors were:				

EEG invites all its members & participants to intensify efforts for the year 2020, the year of Expo to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment and achieve the set targets for the above campaigns.