



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP



EEG CORP NEWS

Together for a Better Environment©



Inside This Issue		Online Panel Discussion	One Root One Communi-tree
Chairperson's Note	2		
EEG News	3		
Corporate News	7		
Local News	7		
International News	8		
UN News	8		
Upcoming Events and Members	9		
Waste Management Report	9	Reach Out to EEG for More Details	

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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

As we welcome the start of the holy month of Ramadan, I would like to wish you all, our dear readers **Ramadhan Kareem and Mubarak**. May this month bring forth clarity, unity and strength to our communities during these uncertain times.

In the wake of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Muslims across the globe will observe the holy month of Ramadan in a different manner. What is usually a month where social gatherings such as visiting family and friends for Iftar dinners and Suhoor are customary, and gathering at the mosque for Taraweeh prayers is encouraged, this year we are instructed to continue practicing social distancing measures. Despite this, the whole country remains resilient and hopeful that the situation will soon improve and we will ease back into our daily routines and celebrate a victory against the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We also, cannot thank the UAE Leadership enough for taking proactive initiatives to ensure the health and safety of the citizens, and although the 24 hours sterilisation programme was a challenge to everyone including us, I am proud to say that EEG rose up to the situation and continued to provide effective platforms to its members by virtual means. Technology has indeed, been the biggest boon for all of us during this crisis.

We turned the crisis into opportunities and elevated our national, regional and international engagements with organisations including, UN Environment Assembly, One Planet Network, Envision Partnership, Innovento, ECOSOC, Tristar Group, HSBC and many more via **15 webinars, go to meetings and live webcasting**. These platforms focused on existing and emerging issues related to Climate Change, Single-Use Plastic Bags, Sustainability Reporting, Strategic Planning and Leadership, Global Programme of Action, Renewables, Financing for Sustainable Development, Renewable Energy Programmes and many more that are pertaining to the impacts of COVID-19.

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day on **22nd April** marked the golden jubilee of the inception of a peaceful call for environmental reform. As the pandemic has confined the global population indoors, a newfound appreciation and urgency to care for the environment have been observed. With unexpected rare animal sightings in countries and air pollution dropping to unprecedented levels in major cities where lockdown measures are imposed, we have a glimpse of a world without major human disruption, and this has served as a wakeup call for many.

We at EEG asked individuals to participate in Earth Day from the comfort of their homes by recording a pro-environment message or call to action on a social media platform of choice, creating ripples of action and encouraging online conversations about our environment.

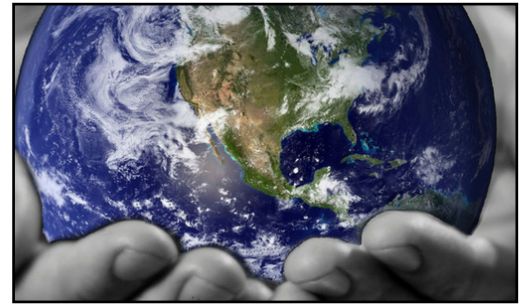
The 2nd panel discussion for EEG titled 'Feeding a thirsty world: Food and Water Security' will be a virtual meeting on **28th May**. The Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition is pushed to **9th and 10th November** to ensure the effective participation of schools. EEG will continue to be active on its social media platforms to update you all on the activities and announce important dates to ensure that we all stay connected.

As we all work towards combating the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we must also continue our daily efforts towards a sustainable future. Let us not revert to our old ways, rather, let us always remember the yearning for the outdoors and allow it to serve as a reminder to lead an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Remember that human health is deeply rooted in the health of the environment and the planet, one cannot heal without the other.

Stay safe, healthy and resilient!

One Planet Network on Climate Change & Sustainability Reporting

EEG would like to thank One Planet Network for organising engaging webinars on leading issues and looks forward to participating in the future too. On **31st March**, One Planet Network organised the webinar that focused on linkages between sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and climate change. Despite the unprecedented situation due to COVID-19, it was attended by over 500 participants from across the globe. The first presentation on ‘Resource Efficiency and Climate Change – Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future’ was given by the International Resource Panel (IRP) to offer an overview of their assessment of seven strategies that can improve system-wide efficiencies in the Buildings and Vehicles sectors.



These include using less material by design, material substitution, fabrication yield improvements, more intensive use, product lifetime extension, and recovery, remanufacture & reuse of components. The second presentation was on ‘Consumer Information Tools and Climate Change: Facilitating low-carbon choices in Tourism, Buildings and Food Systems by the Consumer Information Programme’, which focused on their newly developed report that provided an overview of the major consumer information tools including carbon certifications, rankings, comparing business standards and other educational tools such as dedicated websites.

On **16th April**, a webinar on ‘Sustainability reporting: introducing the methodology for SDG indicator 12.6.1 (Number of companies publishing sustainability reports)’ was organised with informative presentations by esteemed professionals from UNEP, UNCTAD and Global Ai. Introducing the process, attendees were given an overview of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and 244 indicators. Special emphasis was made on SDG Target 12.6 i.e., “Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting”. Companies, especially large and trans-national, are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. Thus, the Indicator 12.6.1 relates to the number of companies publishing sustainability reports.

According to UNEP, there will be two robust data collection mechanisms in place:

- 1. Global data collection & screening mechanism**
- 2. Direct submission via automated survey mechanism**

So how would the process of 12.6.1 work?



To count this as an indicator, companies must publish information that meets a “Minimum requirement” of disclosure. A core set of economic, environmental, social and governance disclosures of sustainability information is therefore identified. These fall under: Institutional and governance; Economic; Environmental; and Social. Finally, it was declared by UNCTAD that the next phase of the pilot testing of the mechanism will be carried out from **April to June 2020**. The countries that have been chosen for initial pilot testing are Guatemala, Ukraine, South (TBC) and Colombia (TBC).

EEG Attends Meeting of the Bureau of UNEA-5

EEG attended a webinar on **1st April**, the meeting of the Bureau of the 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly. The meeting was Chaired by the President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of the Climate and Environment of Norway. The meeting was primarily organised to discuss the synergies between ‘super year for nature’ 2020 and UNEA-5.

It was established that together the 2020 super year and UNEA 5 presented unique opportunities to advance transformative action across four broad themes:



Account for Nature



Infrastructure for Nature



Food system for Nature



Conservation and Sustainable Use of Nature on Land and in Oceans

In summary, the Secretariat reiterated that the 2020 super year will culminate in UNEA-5 as a ‘conversation shifting’ platform, bringing science to the policy, politics and economics of nature. Efforts throughout the 2020 super year and at UNEA 5 should aggressively pursue increased levels of ambitions in line with current evidence and matched with commitments for action and resources.

EEG Attends CPR Subcommittee Meeting

EEG attended on 2nd April, the Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting via webinar. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil. This meeting was organised to discuss important issues such as:

Implementation of UNEA decision 4 / 2, paragraph 14

Presentation of the 201819- Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report

Implementation of UNEA resolution 4 / 9 entitled "Addressing single-use plastic products pollution"

EEG also actively participated in the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the 2020 High-Level Political Forum by providing recommendations to the background document. Once recommendations from various Member States and stakeholders is approved, the document will be sent to the UNEA President for his consideration and onward transmission to the President of ECOSOC.

While addressing the issue of single-use plastic bags (SUPB), it was established by the Secretariat that:

1. **It is not just about choosing, banning or recommending specific materials or bags, but about changing consumer behaviour (increasing reuse rate and avoiding littering)**
2. **Bags designed to be effectively reused (5100- times depending on the material) are consistently better than SUPB**
3. **Banning of SUPB can be adequate in some circumstances, e.g. inefficient waste collection, but should always be combined with the promotion of the best alternative**

This is a commendable direction for UNEP Secretariat to push forward with enthusiasm even in such difficult times and EEG looks forward to participate actively in future platforms too.

Thriving amidst the Chaos of Pandemics

The question is not just about surviving anymore. The world has changed due to COVID-19 and this change, demands us to transform and thrive. The companies around the world are re-structuring their working and financial models. Our goals and targets are affected massively, but we are not backing down. We are and will persevere to rise above the hard times. But how do we do it, when we are surrounded by the chaos? How do we do it, when all we are talking and hearing about is 'uncertainties'?



To build perspective on the above issues, Emirates Environmental Group participated in the virtual session on 13th April with Prof. Srin Pillay, a pioneer in the field of transformational neuro-coaching. The webinar was organised by the Invision Partnership to emphasise on optimising virtual teams, build resilience in times of uncertainty and how to stay focused by taking care of our health.

The session gave an insightful approach to enhance leadership development and shed light on the fact that **'It is not just uncertainty that impacts our brain – it is the hype around it'**. It was further explained how easy it becomes for leaders to lose courage in making decisions because they want to protect the milestones achieved over the years. However, it is during these unpredictable times that leaders need to be decisive and willing to make decisions without perfect information around them.

Talking about work efficiency in such scenario, the difference between 'Teaming' and 'Team' was well explained. Teaming is a coordination and communication beyond functional boundaries to get work done, whereas Team is stable bounded entities who are aware of each other's skills, weaknesses and limitations. It was highly suggested that companies should adopt the process of 'Teaming' over just managing a 'Team', wherein the leaders and the team while taking care of their individual health, also rejuvenate their brains and execute innovative ideas in their work.

Webinar on Strategic planning

EEG participated on 14th April, in a webinar organised by Innovento in association with the Danish Business Council, Finnish Business Council and British Business Group. The webinar was an overview of Strategic Planning & Thinking, Creative Thinking and Innovation, Leadership Skills, Leading High Performance Teams, Motivating workforce with Persuasion & Creativity, Crisis Management, Six Sigma and other managerial aspects. The Expert Consultant of European Commission talked about how every business is going to struggle due to COVID-19 pandemic and since, the struggle is going to be long, companies will need to restructure their strategies to survive the adverse situations.

It was an informative session with practical examples on the notion 'Great companies are improved by crisis'. To avoid over-strategising at this crucial time, the Expert explained the pros and cons of SWOT, PEST and PESTLE analysis with special emphasis on PESTLE analysis, which stands for Political, Economic, Social, Technical, Legal and Environment aspect in 4 quadrants namely, Probable developments, specific effects, identify opportunity/threat and how do we exploit opportunity/minimise the threat. In the concluding remarks, the Expert reiterated that this is a time for companies to build their reputation rather than spreading themselves in the market. This can be achieved by scoping out areas of excellence and targeting new opportunities that will transform the business during these challenging times. Innovento will further organise webinars on motivating teams remotely, supply chain management and business use of AI during the course of this month.

EEG Attends Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting

On the 23rd April, EEG attended the Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting via webinar. The meeting was primarily organised to discuss the following:

1. Draft decision for the IGR for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
2. Implementation of UNEA resolution 23/ - Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training

Regarding the draft decision for the IGR, it was established that maintaining a high-quality coastal and marine environment provides ecosystem functions and services in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14. The role and value of the three global partnerships in tackling land-based pollution namely the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and the Global Wastewater Initiative was commended. Regarding resolution 23/, the Secretariat explained that the following priorities will be the way forward:


Policy and convening	- Policy Dialogue - Advocacy for Green Jobs for Youth - Meaningful Engagement for Youth
Formal education	- Advocacy for Environmental Education - The Little Book of Green Nudges on Campus - Greening Campuses - Partnerships - Higher Education Climate Change
Non-formal education	- Collaborating with the Scouts, Girl Guides and Junior Achievement - Playing for the Planet - Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge


EEG is proud to be associated with an organisation that continues to fly the environmental flag high in these trying times.
Congratulations, UNEP

2020 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Sustainable Development


On 24th April, EEG attended a virtual meeting where, ECOSOC made history as UN memberships came together by virtual means to negotiate unified messages of restoring global economy, reflect on the urgency for advance, bold and concerted global action towards immediate socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and finance a quick, inclusive and resilient recovery by conducting “The 5th ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development”. The ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, is an intergovernmental process with universal participation mandated to review the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda) and other financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Forum was attended virtually by leaders from all over the world.


The President of ECOSOC convened the meeting and stated “Globally our commitment to achieving SDGs hasn’t changed but the urgency to act has”. Joint and coordinated responses through bold national actions, international cooperation and global solidarity are on priority to recover from COVID-19. The Vice Chairman of Citi Group, who was the keynote speaker deliberated that though the developed world has been successful in radical and forceful societal response, the developing countries are still facing the devastating impacts of COVID-19. This is an opportunity to re-enforce, re-purpose and re-invigorate the multilateral cooperation mechanisms. Amid the uncertainties, the Vice Chairman highlighted the silver linings in the COVID-19 ESG momentum as follows,

 ESG funds are outperforming their non-ESG market benchmarks

 Witnessing lowered ESG scores for poor corporate behavior in response to COVID-19

 Expression of social values absorbed into investor paradigms, underpinned by the Gen Z and Millennials’ view that is a defining moment for their generations

 Risk models are being re-considered, supercharging concepts like ‘climate value at risk’

 Move from ‘negative screening’ for ESG funds to a desire to see coronavirus-response ‘additionally objectives’

In the conclusion, the Vice Chairman said, “We have the potential to re-imagine capitalism in a post-COVID world, to embrace long-termism and multi-stakeholder corporate behavior and to use COVID-19 adversity to reinvigorate our commitment to addressing the greatest social, environmental and economic challenges of our time”. The participation of UN Secretary-General, President of the UN General Assembly and Board Chair of Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunisation (GAVI) and Action Aid International made the discussions more effective. The outcome document that was agreed upon, would be the first universal agreement to finance the immediate responses to curb COVID-19 and longer term recovery. The President of ECOSOC also commended the Secretary-General for issuing policy brief on COVID-19

Refer https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_policy_brief_on_human_rights_and_covid_23_april_2020.pdf
 Watch the full video in the link below:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWvLd_5bIFy&feature=youtu.be

Impact of COVID-19 on Renewable Energy Programmes

EEG attended on **28th April**, a webinar organised by The Energy & Utilities on ‘Impact of COVID-19 on renewable energy programmes’. It focused on how and why renewable market should be proactive in dealing with the current market scenario to become more resilient. The webinar initiated discussion on the emerging issues in the energy sector during the pandemic, starting with the fall in oil prices to the bigger challenges that are expected to follow with the global push for integrating renewables into energy systems. The recent data from International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) states that the renewable energy capacity accounted for almost three quarters in 2019 with 72% of new installed global power capacity. Another data from ‘Renewable Capacity Statistics 2020’ reveals the total installed capacity of renewable energy increased by 7.6% in 2019, with 176GW of new clean energy capacity installed during the year. As per the reports, in Middle East the clean energy accounted for 26 % of capacity installed during 2019 and the 2.5GW of renewable energy capacity commissioned in 2019 represented a 12.5% growth on 2018. Energy & Utilities brought into light some of the key figures in the region’s energy sector to discuss the possible implications of COVID-19 on the Middle East and North Africa’s ambitious clean energy programmes, along with the challenges and opportunities in renewable energy projects. Currently, there has been some evidence of a slowdown in the projects pipeline due to the ongoing crisis but there is some evidence of progress as well with EWEC (Abu Dhabi) announcing 2 waste to energy projects and REPDO (Saudi Arabia) proceeding with Round 3 of their renewable program. The webinar had speakers from **Afry Management Consulting, Engie MESCAT, HSBC Bank Middle East, DNV GL and Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Energy, Industry & Mineral Resources.**

The rise of ESG Bond Market

EEG attended on **29th April**, a webinar organised by HSBC on “The rise of ESG bond market during the COVID-19 pandemic” led by the Chief of Staff GBM & Head of Sustainable Finance and Head of Sustainable Bonds, DCM EMEA. Under ESG-linked bonds, investors provide debt and loans to companies that care for the Environment, demonstrate Social responsibility and practice strong corporate Governance. The webinar covered the latest market trends that have been rising as an impact of the pandemic and the growing interest of investors and issuance towards sustainable financing. The major potential impacts of COVID-19 on the global sustainability agenda were discussed with positive and negative views in four major areas:

1. **Awareness for resilience and ESG risks**
2. **Fiscal and monetary stimulus**
3. **Accelerated 4th industrial revolution**
4. **Impact of the oil price.**

HSBC has discovered that the stocks on Climate and ESG have outperformed on a global level even during the crisis. Talking about the Middle East Region, ESG has been a priority in view of climate change, wherein the investors and the issuers understand the importance of environmental and social issues. The market has continued to play a vital role and consistent push from the Governments of the region on environment and sustainability is an encouraging driver during these critical times. The webinar also introduced the rise of Green, Social and Sustainable Bonds (GSS Bonds), whose framework encompasses the Green Bond Principles (GBP), Social Bond Principles (SBP) and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) by International Capital Market Association (ICMA). The COVID-19 Bond developed under the Social category is aimed at financing the mitigation of Covid-19’s socioeconomic impacts. HSBC Sustainable Finance Team can structure the Covid-19 bonds according to the issuer’s situation and the investors’ demand.

<https://on24static.akamaized.net/event/223/40/54//rt/1/documents/resourceList1588091200797/covid19theriseofthebondmarkethsbcmenat1588091198199.pdf>

One Root, One Communi-Tree

One of EEGs flagship projects, the ‘One Root, One Communi-tree’ that engages all the sectors of the society to manage the recyclable waste and take a more sustainable approach was rolled out for the year 2020 on **20th January** and is continuing till **30th May**. This project creates action-oriented awareness among the participants and contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions and landfill space. The participants who achieve the target set by EEG are awarded with a certificate and a native tree sapling to plant under their names. The Tree Planting Ceremony for this year will be held on **20th December 2020**. In the ongoing Phase 1, EEG has received registrations from **126** students, **46** academic institutions and **81** corporates and the number of trees secured till **30th April** is **348**.



295,877 kg
Paper



1,232 kg
Aluminium Cans



16,259 kg
Glass Bottles



1,410 pcs
Toners



12,941 kg
Plastic



287 pcs
Mobile Phones

Reduction

The collection resulted in

Saving



1,190 MT CO₂e



1,555 m³ of landfill space



7,713 Million BTU of energy



5,266 trees



1,482 gallons of gasoline

We urge all our members to come on board and participate in this hands-on environmental activity to focus on the reduction of our consumption habits and help reduce our CO₂ emissions collectively.

Green Call

The Green Call Initiative of EEG for e-waste recycling ended on **30th April**. It was launched on **20th March** aligning with the Global Recycling Day. In spite of the lockdown implemented by the UAE Leadership to contain COVID-19, EEG received the participation of **24** students, **5** academic institutions and **50** corporates. The participants who achieved the set targets will be awarded with a certificate and trees to be planted under their name as a part of "For our Emirates We Plant" on **20th December 2020**. A total **126** mobiles were collected that resulted in the saving of **439** Gallons of Gasoline and the conservation of **103** trees from being cut.

EEG commends the participants that achieved their targets in spite of the challenges faced and for their unwavering enthusiasm.



CORPORATE NEWS

Chalhoub Group hosts livestream with CEO

In an exemplary performance of addressing the concerns of its employees during the current uncertainty, Chalhoub Group hosted a livestream with its CEO in which the concerns of all employees of the organisation with regards to COVID-19 situation and tackling it together, as one team were addressed. Speaking about the responsibility of leadership during a crisis, the CEO was of the view that it was imperative for the organisation to lead the way by putting their people first. He assured the employees that the entity was agile and more empowered and would come out of the situation stronger than ever. To find out more, please visit:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/chalhoub-group_stayhome-staysafe-wearechalhoub-activity-6648164991000240128-_Ekl/



Tristar Group on Earth Day and Global Safety Day

"One thing the COVID-19 crisis has taught us is we need to be grateful to the earth for all the gifts that she has provided us free of any cost over all these years", said the CEO of Tristar Group. On **22nd April**, the CEO shared the video message to appeal to everyone at Tristar Group and beyond to use the experience of this COVID-19 pandemic in demonstrating resilience. The year 2020 will indeed, go down in history as the year that changed our lives forever and threatened the survival of millions of people all over the world, but we also cannot deny the revival of our planet that we have taken for granted all this while. Referring to the cleaner environment, cleaner oceans, clean air quality and of course, rightful freedom of wildlife on the planet without being disturbed by man-made inventions, the CEO added "With less travel on all fronts, we are seeing a massive drop in air pollution and I must say that our dear mother earth is coming out as a winner in this crisis".

On **28th April** Global Safety Day 2020, Tristar Group organised an educational webinar led by Senior Consultant (MD DM) Gastroenterology & Hepatology of King's College Hospital UAE on "Ways to increase our immune system during COVID-19 pandemic". The Senior Consultant encouraged everyone to take care of their first line of defense by lifestyle modifications, which include no smoking, taking proper diet, doing regular moderate exercise, keeping ourselves hydrated, maintaining healthy weight, taking adequate sleep and minimizing stress. These measures do not scientifically prove to prevent COVID-19 but it does reinforce our body's natural defense mechanism against harmful diseases. Myths on taking supplements was also debunked, as Senior Consultant clarified that taking supplements or immune boosters can pose reverse effects to our body if not taken within the prescribed guidelines. "No supplement, diet or lifestyle modification aside from social distancing and practicing proper hygiene can protect us from developing COVID-19" stressed the Senior Consultant. Tristar Group is a corporate member of EEG. Please follow the link for the full video message, https://youtu.be/akeB90_9wVA

LOCAL NEWS

Earth Day 2020

On the 50th anniversary of Earth Day 2020 (**22nd April**), the Minister of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) said in his message to mark the Earth Day, "In the midst of the pandemic, the UAE has carved a niche for itself as a role model in its response to the sweeping health crisis". Environment and Sustainability have always been top priorities under the leadership of MOCCA. For instance, the UAE has based its environmental protection efforts on deploying renewable energy solutions. Internationally, the UAE has invested in 70 renewable projects across 60 countries so far, significantly contributing to the pursuit of sustainable development across the globe. Apart from that, clean energy technologies & policies aimed at phasing out hydrocarbons and in reducing carbon emissions, particularly in the transport sector has been succeeding and has been playing a key role.

Read More: <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395302838199>

What International NGOs Are Doing?

The Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme in their April newsletter, which EEG receives as a member of the "One Planet Network", expressed increased concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and related short and long-term response policies, in particular with regard to the following three key dimensions

1. **The livelihoods of food systems actors, particularly small farmers and small businesses, as food systems face difficulties operating normally, potentially leading to gaps in food production, access and availability.**
2. **The role of diets in exacerbating the health impact of COVID-19 and concerns regarding the potential impact of COVID-19 on access to healthy, nutritious and sustainable food, particularly by vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly.**
3. **The increasing evidence on the relation of food systems with the growing number of emerging infectious disease outbreaks that are posing a threat to global health and economic stability.**

They outlined responses and discussions from a number of international organisations including:

UN Environment Programme: UNEP chief, in a piece in The Guardian, emphasised the urgency to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to tackle biodiversity loss going forward, declaring that "Nature is sending us a message."

FAO: The FAO has rolled out a robust toolkit for smart policy-making during the crisis as well as coherent and robust plans for our food systems.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS): The CFS' High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) has published a discussion draft paper on key considerations regarding the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN).

EEG would like to thank the SFS Programme for this very informative newsletter!

UN NEWS



New CSO Panel of UNCCD in Action

The Civil Society Organisation (CSO) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) last month, elected members of its new panel for the next biennium on a virtual meeting via Skype. The newly elected CSO panel is geared to start the actions with special focus on active involvement of CSOs and find the links with other processes such as Climate Change, Biodiversity and IUCN.

The new chair and co-chair focused on the power of communication in facilitating the coordination and collaboration among the accredited CSOs. The panel will identify strategies to engage and bring more accredited and active CSOs in different regions. In a mission to improve the livelihoods of marginalised populations, specifically the ones under severe drought and desertification, the CSOs have consistently been the voice to create awareness and to make things better by rolling out strategic campaigns.

The panel also recognised the importance of collaborating with Science-Policy Interface (SPI) and to bring this joint effort into effect, the Secretariat suggested a call for nominations for the post of alternate CSO representative to the SPI. To ensure gender and geographical balance, it is recommended that a female member from either Asia or Eastern European Group be nominated. In order to mobilise the CSOs involved in the UNCCD process, the panel agreed to prepare a calendar of related events that could be included in the work programme for 2020.

This work programme is an effort to expand the global reach by prioritising the communication, the engagement of CSOs, the capacity building, and the need for increasing the engagement between Intergovernmental Organisations and NGOs among others. The panel has further requested the Secretariat to set up an online collaborative working system to include monthly on-line meetings and sharing regular information (SharePoint platform). A newsletter will be published quarterly to update all the constituencies on the actions and activities of the panel.

Follow the link for the first newsletter of the new CSO panel:

<https://www.unccd.int/news-events/march-cso-panel-newsletter-now-available>

UNCCD NEWS



Sponsorship opportunities are available for all our programmes, Please reach out to us to get more details on each of them

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG warmly welcomed 1 renewed corporate member during the month of April 2020

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Epson Europe B.V. Middle East Office	Renewal		
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WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME - MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

EEG would like to give a huge shout out to those members of the society in the UAE, who have shown incredible approach towards the Waste Management Programme even during the month of lockdown in April amidst ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Adhering to the restrictions of social distancing and taking care of all the preventive measures. EEG managed to receive recyclable materials. These remarkable efforts demonstrate the passion that members of the society in the UAE have for the environment and keeping our planet sustainable.

The total collection of recyclable materials in the month of April



13,979 kg
Paper



48 kg
Aluminium Cans



1,298 kg
Glass Bottles



58 MT CO₂e



126 m³ of
landfill space



434 Million BTU
of energy



260 pcs
Toners



1,820 kg
Plastic



101 pcs
Mobile Phones



321 trees



441 gallons
of gasoline