



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
GROUP



# EEG CORP NEWS

Together for a Better Environment©



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

EEG is entering the month of June with more positivity and agility. A lot has changed this year and as we are almost halfway through it, I hope we have all developed a realisation of how we want the future to be post pandemic. A new normal can be a better normal and a lot of it actually depends on us.

The COVID-19 has not just been a global health crisis but it is leading to economic recession as well. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that cumulative output losses due to the pandemic could be around US\$ 9 trillion over 2020-21, with no country or region spared from its impact. What lies ahead may not be certain but what we all know for sure is that we need a sustainable recovery, in terms of Economy, the Society and of course the Environment.

However, the month of May was an enriching month for us with effective engagements in virtual High-Level Events, webinars and interactive online sessions with different stakeholders on national, regional and global level. EEG attended over 20 such events that dug deeper on diverse issues pertaining to the implications of COVID-19, including energy efficiency, modern governance, oil price development, food access for vulnerable communities, corporate leadership, sustainable financing and plastic pollution to name some.

We were honoured to participate in the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR, which was the first ever virtual session in the history of UNEP, the High-Level meetings of United Nations and online roundtable discussion organised by Dubai Chamber of Commerce. I also had the opportunity to voice out the urgency of long term and sustainable investments towards a low carbon society and healthier planet in the online talk show 'Gulf Cultural Club'. We have delivered our objectives through these engagements by contributing concrete suggestions and statements.

The bottom line of all the engagements is that we need to build resilience and we need to rise higher this time than ever to build back our environment, our only support system in a much better and sustainable manner. We have been witnessing small positive sights of nature recovering as the world has slowed down due to lockdowns, but are these going to be temporary? What are we as an individual, community, businesses and nations ready to do for the environment and our future?

Adhering to social distancing, EEG organised its 2<sup>nd</sup> panel discussion of this year online, it welcomed around 150 participants on **28<sup>th</sup> May** to provide a platform for insightful interaction on Food and Water Security. Esteemed panelists shared substantive information that provided deeper overview to the participants on these issues. Positive feedbacks from the participants have encouraged us to expand our virtual engagements even further more.

With an emphasis on the importance of collaborations in various sectors, we can all contribute significantly towards a future of better preparedness. Research shows that private sector investments can contribute between 85% - 90% of the total cost of shifting towards a low carbon society. Emirates Environmental Group envisions a resilient community and is working hard to bring communities together through its various environmental awareness programmes that serve the society, such as reducing resource extraction, carbon emissions and landfill space, and increasing green cover by pushing for urban afforestation as well as change consumer behaviour towards a more responsible attitude.

Encouraging the society to be proactive and responsible with one's environmental impact has been our mantra to see bigger changes in the world. Holding our grounds, we continue to walk the same strong path of building our communities as strong stewards of nature. EEG is also going to conduct "The Emirates Recycling Award 2020" and the "Environmental Drawing Competition" virtually on **8<sup>th</sup> June**; we look forward to the active participation and attendance of the winning entities.

I hope you all would enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter, as we bring to you the latest updates of EEG's activities and engagements, along with interesting news from across the world. While we continue to fight the pandemic, let's be vigilant and find our green vision for the new world.

***Let us all work together for a better Environment!***

## Engaging with UNEP

EEG attended 6 important meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the UNEP via webinars last month.

1). On **30<sup>th</sup> April**, EEG attended the online 150<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UNEP chaired by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil. It was attended by 153 participants from the member states with the purpose of discussing the Preparations for the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Environment Assembly and Contribution of the UNEA to the 2020 High-Level Political Forum. EEG has submitted its recommendations on 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' document prior to this session as a part of written inputs from member states. The key deliberations of the meeting included discussions on human encroachment affecting wildlife and disrupting the natural barriers, alignment of UNEP's effort with its member states on achieving climate neutrality by 2050, efforts of these member states in fighting the challenges of COVID-19 through various collaborations and volunteering activities, opportunities to use the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNEP and Stockholm Conference for global environmental agenda, green economy, etc.

2). On **5<sup>th</sup> May**, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Africa Office/Energy Unit, and the Ecosystems Division (Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities) held a webinar on Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus. The first two webinars of this series took place in **March and April**. These sessions are organised to create awareness and a better understanding of the integration among "Water-Energy-Food" (WEF) Nexus that is essential for human well-being, poverty alleviation and for achieving the multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Projections based on Africa predict that the population will increase to more than 2 billion by 2030 creating a significant increase in water consumption by 283%; and demand of energy by 70% and food by 60% (RES4Africa, 2019). It is for this reason that UNEP and the Ecosystem Division, in collaboration with the RES4Africa joined forces to organise this series of online webinars on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus.

3). On **12<sup>th</sup> May**, the session was co-facilitated by representatives from Canada and Malawi. The important elements discussed in the meeting were:



Consolidated proposal for revised reporting framework, with three forms of inter-sessional reporting



Overview of a newly developed web-based monitoring and reporting mechanism



Discussion on the background document- "Converging elements of consensus"



Comments from Member States and stakeholders, including EEG

4). On **13<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG had the pleasure of attending UNEP's webinar titled "Can I Recycle This? A global mapping and assessment of standards, labels and claims on plastic packaging". The webinar presented a recent report published by UNEP in partnership with Consumers International in which the dangers of mislabeled plastic packaging were discussed and five global recommendations to improve plastic packaging confusion were revealed. UNEP's report on the global mapping and assessment of standards, labels and claims on plastic packaging unearthed alarming details as it examined the on-packaging communications on products targeted towards consumers. The report focused on the sustainability of plastic packaging and food-ware with a special emphasis on labels and claims on plastic packaging and the standards and certifications behind them. Communications on plastic packaging play an important role in informing consumers about sustainability and the proper disposal of plastic waste. The full webinar is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbXdkkv0Guo&t=36s>

You can download the UNEP's report on the standards, labels and claims on plastic packaging at

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/can-i-recycle-global-mapping-and-assessment-standards-labels-and-claims-plastic-packaging>

5). On **15<sup>th</sup> May**, a webinar on "Cities and Covid-19: Food Access for Vulnerable Communities" was organised by FAO, UNEP, ICLEI, RUAF and Rikolto. Food access has become a prime concern with the ongoing lockdowns and restricted movements in countries amid the pandemic. Every city in every country is battling this issue with various tools and strategies. However, in vulnerable cities the scenario is much more challenging. To present the insights from a worldwide survey by FAO and share the experience of 3 cities in ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for vulnerable populations, this webinar was organised. The three cities engaged in detailed discussion were New York City (USA), Kampala (Uganda) and Quito (Ecuador). EEG was happy to be a part of this webinar and to learn about how people in these cities have come together to make things happen efficiently. Strategic Programme Leader of Food Systems Programme in FAO gave the review of how COVID-19 affected urban food systems across the world and gave an insight of the survey run by them. A total 150 cities have so far responded to the questionnaire, out of which 57% are from local and sub-regional governments. Awareness is there but a longer term transition needs to be identified.

The recording of the event can be accessed on YouTube: be accessed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpfoiCtR7AA>

6). On **21<sup>st</sup> May**, EEG attended a session that was chaired by H.E. the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil. One of the most important issues discussed at this meeting was the preparation for World Environment Day 2020, which is scheduled to take place on the **5<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**. It is obvious that celebrations across the globe for this momentous occasion will be conducted virtually. However, UN believes it is essential to educate and engage audiences about the value that nature provides us and convey the urgency for global action towards the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The meeting also discussed the Food Systems Summit 2021. EEG is proud to participate in these endeavours and congratulates UNEP on organising such important events. Video address by UNEA President: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6dXJjS8NYs>

The Executive Director's Statement:

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/executive-directors-statement-150th-meeting-committee-permanent>

**Strengthening Science & Technology and Addressing Inequalities in the COVID-19 era**

COVID-19 is the first global crisis in digital era; wherein only about 50% Of the world’s population has access to it. More than 60% of women still do not have the benefit of any digital platform. Apart from that, with many jobs being hardly conducive to be digital in its work structure, the strategic approach has become a key priority to prevent the growth of inequalities that is perceived to be an impact of the pandemic.

On **6<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG attended a webinar on ‘Strengthening Science & Technology and Addressing Inequalities in the COVID-19 era’ organised by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the UNEA 5. The expert speakers accentuated that Science and Technology can be effective only when it can be accessed to improve global challenges and enhance exchange of information and solutions in times of crises.

It was recommended that governments around the world need to react to deploy online services and involve public communication, leaving no one behind. A systematic responsive plan against COVID-19 should be developed and implemented with long term approach to prevent inequalities.

**The webinar presentation can be accessed in the link below:**

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/wp-content/uploads/202005//FINAL\\_2nd-UNDESA-COVID19-Briefing-6-May-2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/wp-content/uploads/202005//FINAL_2nd-UNDESA-COVID19-Briefing-6-May-2020.pdf)

**Engagements with CEBC**

Building on the active partnership, EEG attended two interesting webinars of CEBC in the month of May

**1).** On **12<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG attended a webinar organised by Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), wherein the expert speakers discussed the estimated trends in Energy Efficient Market due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Head of Energy Efficiency at the International Energy Agency (IEA) talked about the expected drop in energy efficiency markets in 2020 due to low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions amid COVID-19 and the urgency needed for governments to look for long term recovery without slowing down the clean energy transition.

The Executive Director of Dubai Regulatory & Supervisory Bureau for Water & Electricity (RSB) gave an insight about RSB and explained about the survey conducted by them among their 34 accredited entities to understand the impact of COVID-19 in their businesses. The survey revealed about 20% drop in revenues in 2020.

The Chief Technology Officer of Smart Automation Energy gave a technical aspect on maintaining indoor air quality, positive building pressure and sick building syndrome to deliver healthy air quality. Furthermore, in a report, the IEA acknowledged the current crisis as the most severe plunge in energy demand since World War 2. With the sudden collapse in demand for fossil fuels, renewable energy has seen a steady rise as it proves the only resilient source of energy against the biggest global energy shock in 70 years. Renewable energy is predicted to grow by 5% this year alone, to compensate for almost 30% of the world’s declining demand for electricity. **The recorded webinar can be accessed via the link,**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBCFL5nRTVs>

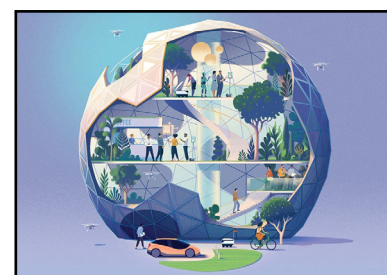
**2).** On **20<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG attended the technologically enlightening webinar hosted by The Clean Energy Business Council, alongside the Future Mobility Club (FMC). The session shed light on the advancements and infrastructure of EV across the Arab world. Guest speakers included CEO of Green Parking, Key Account Manager Schneider Electric, Regional Director CATEC Mobility, Innovation Manager Energy Management Hager Group and Senior Strategy Manager Engie.

They offered insights into the EV market in the region and the technological advancements it has seen over the years. In discussing Electric Vehicle infrastructure in the MENA region, the guest speakers tackled issues relating to the COVID-19 pandemic effecting the EV market such as the oil price crash, supply chain disruptions, and EV sales and orders being put on hold due to financial losses experienced by companies and individuals.

However, despite these challenges the panelists remain hopeful that the EV market will recover gradually by before end of 2020. In a closing statement Senior Strategy Manager Engie expressed: “there is a silver lining in that the cross roads between the COVID-19 pandemic and the oil price crash could potentially result in a greener future, thus making the future of EV infrastructure a brighter one.”

**Modern Governance & the Future of (Remote) Work**

The Diligent invited EEG for a webinar on **13<sup>th</sup> May** that had Business Representative of Diligent Middle East, the CEO of Hawkamah and Head of Corporate Governance at First Abu Dhabi Bank on the panel. The panelists talked about major dynamic shift in businesses with increase in virtual meetings, as it does not require travel and itinerary planning. This will be a part of future even after COVID-19 and therefore, what we are learning during this crisis has become very important. The webinar gave an insight of what the future of work looks like, how companies will operate in the future, hidden risks of virtual technology, enabling secure board communication and best practices for virtual meetings. Important resources for reference can be viewed in links below: [www.diligent.com/news](http://www.diligent.com/news) | [www.diligent.com/covid](http://www.diligent.com/covid)



### ***Climate Change and Clean Energy in the light of COVID-19 and Oil Price Development***

EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network has started a series of webinars on Climate Change and COVID-19. EEG joined the 1<sup>st</sup> webinar on **14<sup>th</sup> May** to learn about new opportunities for climate change action and the energy transition in the EU and GCC region during the pandemic. It was moderated by the Managing Director at Earth Matters Consulting /Climate Change Convener at EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network. The panelists were Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General, Associate Professor NTUA Research Collaboration Specialist EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network and an Independent Expert.

The panelists covered issues of how impactful the lockdown is in emission reduction. They expressed that though the world has been in major lockdowns over a couple of months now, the carbon emissions have fallen just by 7.6%. This clearly shows that transport is really not a major sector to achieve the target of 1.5 C. What we need is structural changes in constructions, industries, etc... Experts also highlighted some other estimated impacts of lockdowns due to COVID-19 crisis, such as population growth, increase in unemployment, and negative impact on green building construction and though the energy emissions & demand will decrease, that does not imply long term change in behavioral patterns of individuals. It was stressed that governments in other countries may take more action on Climate Change. Therefore, the GCC needs to diversify itself with new green social plans, incentivising SMEs (as they are hit harder in this crisis), energy efficiency retrofits (as it will generate more jobs and boost economy), initiate EV expansion projects and look into carbon pricing. **More info in the link, <https://www.eugcc-cleanenergy.net/node/1305>**

### ***IUCN National Committee Meeting***

The Chairperson of EEG attended an IUCN National Committee Meeting on **14<sup>th</sup> May** that had the agenda of receiving updates and latest news from IUCN. It was presented by the Regional Councilor from West Asia to the IUCN. Members of the IUCN National Committee in the UAE were invited to discuss the effects of the current COVID-19 crisis in their operations. The national committee members also discussed the important topics impacting our region today.

H.E Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, the new candidate for IUCN Presidency, presented some key updates in that regard. She would be the first Arab woman to lead this global environmental organisation. In her statement as Nominee for the post of IUCN President, she expressed in detail her vision for IUCN, "If elected, I would strive to bring future-oriented and innovative leadership that is inclusive of all generations, backgrounds and cultures. We will work together across boundaries to define the governance, strategies and measures of success at the IUCN. We must work together across all the Union's constituencies to demonstrate an undivided commitment to success. Experience has shown me the power of being open to new ideas and approaches, as well as the importance of listening to everyone's needs and aspirations, including listening to the needs of nature. We face huge challenges. We do not have the luxury of time. As a Union, we need to focus on results and be solution-oriented and to take on these challenges immediately and effectively for the generations to come." The Government of the UAE is backing her nomination and EEG is endorsing her to be the new President of the IUCN. Only two candidates will be selected to stand for the election at the World Conservation Congress 2020 in France, we encourage you all to support her candidacy via the link below: <https://www.razanalmubarak.com/support/>

### ***Corporate Leadership in Times of Crisis***

On **18<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG attended a webinar on Corporate leadership in times of crisis in-line with the 10 principles of UN Global Compact. The discussions were led by UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE and CEO of Chalhoub Group. The UN has been a catalyst even to the private sector during this pandemic and launched the UN Business Guide : [COVID19 https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHRP-COVID19\\_May\\_Update.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHRP-COVID19_May_Update.pdf).

The CEO talked about how the Chalhoub Group has adopted a human centered approach in its business (employees, stakeholders and community) and increased the virtual team engagements including e-learning, developed compassion to ensure mental well-being of its employees. Talking about effective leadership, the key attributes are calmness to deal with tough business situations, transparency with the employees/ stakeholders/ partners/ shareholders, honesty, avoid building impractical hopes, ability to listen and develop trust, and learning from mistakes if certain decisions fail. The UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE concluded by saying that COVID-19 has re-emphasised what UN did while launching the 17 SDGs to prioritise the areas of utmost importance. We have to learn from this experience in a positive way now. The participants of the webinar were also encouraged to connect with UN Global Compact Local Network of UAE on these issues and engage with stronger interactions.

### ***The Sterilisation of the GCC to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in the Region***

On **18<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG attended the Waste & Recycling Middle East and Africa webinar, the first session in a series to come. The webinar titled "Enhanced cleaning, disinfection and safety measures to prevent COVID-19" welcomed Dubai Municipality, Bee'ah Oman and Bee'ah UAE as guest speakers to present best practices and methods used during the national sterilisation programmes. The Dubai Municipality, in line with the country's precautionary measures, focused on the sanitisation of densely populated areas in Dubai, mainly in public transportation, streets and public facilities which see a host of people on a regular basis and can serve as hotspots for spreading and contracting the virus.

Bee'ah's response to COVID-19 was proactive and agile. Having observed the issue since the first outbreak was reported in China, Bee'ah prepared for the potential of the virus reaching the UAE very early which allowed for early response. EEG commends the Dubai Municipality, Bee'ah in both its operations for their immense disinfection, cleaning and waste management efforts in combatting the spread of the virus in UAE & Oman.

### **Roundtable Discussion on Impact of COVID-19 on Dubai Business Community**

On **19<sup>th</sup> May**, EEG participated in the online roundtable discussion organised by Dubai Chamber of Commerce for the business councils and business groups. Insightful presentations were delivered on Global, Regional, and Local Economic Challenges; Impact of COVID-19 on Dubai Business Community; Dubai Chamber Policy Recommendations and Potential Opportunities Arising from COVID-19. Businesses are impacted by COVID-19 and the world economy in 2020 is projected to be hit harder than 2008-2009- financial crisis. Dubai Chamber of Commerce has conducted a survey among companies during April to collect information on how COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the businesses in Dubai and what challenges companies are facing during this crisis. The survey was answered by 1,228 CEO/Managers of companies from various sectors. Companies also provided measures taken by them to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on employees and operational continuity. The result of the survey displayed that 90% of the companies have experienced fall in sales and turnover in the first quarter due to the pandemic, particularly the sectors in hospitality, tourism, real estate and financial services. These sectors further expect a decline in their economy by more than 75% in the second quarter.

While majority of companies did not have a ready plan to handle a global disaster, they have still taken many proactive measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on employees and operational continuity. Around 70% of companies expect business closure in the coming 6 months, and this problem is mainly high in small and medium size enterprises. However, with these negative impacts and the global lockdown, businesses need to continue by becoming resilient with extra safety measures in place to adapt to new changes and challenges. Digital transformation that started 15 years ago has accelerated in the first quarter of 2020 and it's crucial to use it as an opportunity to innovate the business operations. The roundtable concluded with 'Economy will be different henceforth, and we all need to be flexible and forward-looking'.

### **Scaling up and Speeding up for Resilience**

Building perspective on a comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Chairperson of EEG was invited to deliver a speech on **22<sup>nd</sup> May** in an online session of Gulf Cultural Club that is broadcasted in the entire GCC region. The Chairperson gave a strong and detailed talk to act on these global strategies by pushing for greater awareness, development and implementation of relevant, short, medium and long term strategies by governments, and the onus on the private sector to make the right investments. The COVID-19 is a biggest wakeup call that humanity has ever got and in fact, it has actually revealed the interconnectedness of all living beings. Therefore, there is a strong urge to rise with concerted and accelerated efforts. We do not have a Plan-B to sustain our only planet the 'Earth'. The Chairperson placed special emphasis on SDG no. 17 that calls everyone for 'Partnership for the Goals'.

As a member of GISD Alliance, the Chairperson explained the vision of aligning business with the SDGs by helping them to identify opportunities for long term and sustainable investments. This new focus of converging profitability and sustainability in the business mindset will scale up and speed up the world towards resilience. She also talked about the launch of GRI 306: Waste 2020, a new waste standard that aims to help companies identify and manage their waste-related practices and impacts, throughout their value chain. The speech was concluded on a positive note that the world has always come together to fight such global crises and this time too, every country needs to find a common ground to be prepared and strengthen its business values. Post COVID-19 we cannot go back to our old ways. We all need to comply to environmental standards and move ahead with smart innovations.

### **Feeding a Thirsty World: Food & Water Security**

Facilitating strong interactions on food and water security, EEG organised its 2<sup>nd</sup> panel discussion virtually on **28<sup>th</sup> May** titled '**Feeding a thirsty world: Food & Water Security**'. EEG was delighted to welcome esteemed speakers on the panel from International Center for Bio-saline Agriculture, Food Security Office of the UAE, Alliance for Water Stewardship and Nestle Waters EMENA to share their experience and innovation in these areas. The discussions aligned with the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 and to the UN SDG no. 2, 6, 10, 12, 13 & 17. The Director General of International Center for Bio-saline Agriculture opened her statements by presenting the dangers and impacts of world hunger and malnutrition in its many forms. International Center for Bio-saline Agriculture also offered water source and agri-aquaculture farm solutions to combat these problems. Senior Research Analyst, UAE Food Security Office, emphasised The Ministry of State for Food Security's dedication to achieving the National Food Security Strategy 2051 using technological advancements, revised labeling systems on food packaging and engaging the community in competitions such as the UAE FoodTech Challenge.

The Chief Executive of Alliance for Water Stewardship expressed the urgency for water security strategies on a global and regional scale, and highlighted AWS's five-step, standard, framework for sites to implement water stewardship. Regional Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Manager at Nestle MENA spoke on the brands water stewardship journey.

Nestle having is addressing water challenges within their factories through a phased approach that tackles the three R's. By 2025 all Nestle water factories will be certified by AWS - currently 22 factories are certified. This Panel Discussion was an effective engagement platform and welcomed active participants, who showed their keen interest in these topics by asking engaging questions to the expert panelists.

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/4bce2662c52cf0eedffce0f78c5f1dcb74b4fa1efaaca14fed14f3cfcbb458e7>



### **High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 & Beyond**

On 28<sup>th</sup> May, EEG was honoured to attend a live webcast of the high level event convened by the UN Secretary-General, Prime Minister of Canada and Prime Minister of Jamaica to address the economic devastation caused by COVID-19 and enable discussions for sustainable financing solutions leaving no one behind.

Special attention was towards international cooperation and external financial system for the most developing countries, who do not have sufficient domestic resources and fiscal space to fund adequate COVID-19 response and recovery measures. The event started with the High-Level Segment, wherein the Heads of State and Governments expressed their commitment to facilitate global solutions to address the global economic crisis and its effects on the most vulnerable.

The Heads of small developing states specifically mentioned that in a long term, they need to strengthen the capacity building within the states for better preparedness and response plan. The leaders also expressed their concern that the response plan to the pandemic or any global crises in general should not cause unintended impacts. The segment was followed by a High-Level Panel of leaders from international institutions that included the Managing Director of the IMF, Special Envoy of the African Union on COVID-19, President of the World Bank Group, Secretary General of the OECD and Special Envoy of the SG on climate and private finance.

They discussed the challenges and opportunities to act quickly on the six major issues that includes expanding liquidity in the global economy and maintaining financial stability, addressing debt vulnerabilities for all developing countries, private sector creditors, enhancing external finance for inclusive growth, gender equality and creating jobs, expand fiscal space and foster domestic resource mobilisation by preventing illicit financial flows, and ensuring a sustainable and inclusive recovery aligning with SDGs.

Following the global conversation on how to defeat this pandemic, Prime Minister of Canada assured, "As the process continues at the United Nations and as further decisions are taken in appropriate international institutions, you can count on Canada to work with you to protect health, safety and livelihoods of people everywhere. This is our chance to adapt our international institutions to meet these challenges and build more resilient but open international infrastructures that foster true collaboration between partners."

The Prime Minister of Jamaica expressed commitment to support the important follow up work that the working groups will be undertaking in line with key areas explored during the event. He said, "I am encouraged that we have achieved what we have aspired to do at this global dialogue, which is to set in motion a process to identify concrete solutions to the various challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis."

The Secretary-General mentioned that the pandemic has revealed the global fragility that is seen in our failed responses until now to the climate crisis. "The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement will guide us through these turbulent times. The entire UN system is mobilised in support of governments around the world for response and recovery.

Acting together we can generate change to save lives and livelihood devastated by COVID-19. The pandemic is a human tragedy but it is also an opportunity to come together and join our efforts for global survival, peace and prosperity" concluded the Secretary-General.

We, at the Emirates Environmental Group are focused to deliver actions and bring the communities together to not just survive this pandemic but to create sustainable approach for a better world. Encouraged by the global deliberations, we will continue to tirelessly work to protect the environment that sustains the lives and livelihoods of everyone.

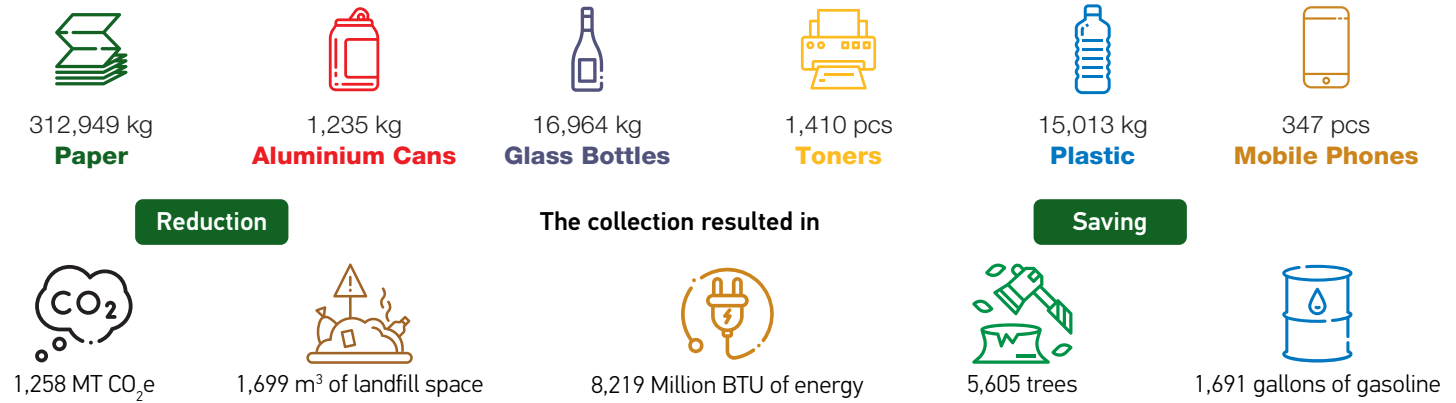
**For more information, please follow the link,**

<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/financing-development>



**One Root, One Communi-Tree**

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of One Root One Communi-Tree (OROC) project for this year is over. We thank all the participating individuals and entities for their continuous efforts towards environmental protection even during these difficult times of COVID-19.



The total number of registered participants was 259, out of which 122 managed to achieve the target successfully. Cheers to one and all!

**CORPORATE NEWS**

**DEWA Smart Services for People of Determination**

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority raises the bar for inclusivity with a smart services initiative designed for people of determination and in accordance to the standards of Smart Dubai Government. DEWA's smart services include an easy-to-navigate website for people with determination and the visually impaired, a smart app compatible with the Mobile Content Accessibility Guidelines, a live video chat service that uses sign language as a means to assist the hearing impaired and a brand-new virtual employee that utilises Artificial Intelligence and responds to customers in both Arabic and English.



The smart application was also rewarded a rating of 1110/ due to its efficiency and accessibility and as per the Smart Dubai Government standards in 2019. Some of the website's innovative accessibility features include a colour adjustment option that caters to customers who have colour blindness, font enlargement feature to assist the visually impaired in reading and a unique shortcut feature that reduces text and facilitates navigation between web pages for a smoother browsing experience.

To view the features of easy access to DEWA's website **please follow the link,** <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-us/support-and-points-of-interest/accessibility-options>

**Tristar's Warehouse Receives LEED Green Building Certification**

EEG congratulates its Corporate Member, The Tristar Group's multi-logistics facility at JAFZA South that received the 'LEED 2009 New Construction and Major Renovations' Gold certification for the implementation of green building standards. In 2019, Tristar achieved energy savings of over 300 MWh/year, which translated to substantial economic savings as compared to operating a standard warehouse with a total capacity of more than 15,000 pallet positions.



Additionally in light of COVID-19, Tristar Group has allayed the fears of its extensive workforce of more than 2,000 employees which are spread across 21 countries by assuring them that there will be no layoffs due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement was followed by the comments of Tristar Group CEO who said that the organisation was based on a very resilient business model and with the continued support and hard work of its employees, the organisation could survive the current challenges and come out stronger and better.

**To find out more, please visit:** <https://www.constructionweekonline.com/business/263986-tristar-group-reassures-2000-workforce-that-no-layoffs-will-be-made>

### **ANFS Issues Statement in Context of the COVID-19 Crisis**

The Arab Network for Food Security issued a statement on World Labour Day in which they reinstated their unchanging principles related to supporting the struggle of farmers, agricultural workers, fishermen and pastoralists, in the Arab World and globally, with emphasis on the necessity of ensuring the Right to Food for all at fair prices for the producer and the consumer alike by building local food systems that are resilient in times of crises. The network in context of the crisis, called attention to a set of five basic demands:

**First:** Devote care to the rural areas and their inhabitants who suffer from lack of sustainable development, from exclusion and marginalisation in the domains of health, education and infrastructure.

**Second:** The necessity of reconsidering farming policies pertaining to confronting possible food crises

**Third:** Rejection of suspending the activity of international organisations in the agricultural and food domains during crises, including the Coronavirus crisis.

**Fourth:** Rejection of the politicisation of food assistance and using it against peoples, and demand the lifting of unfair international sanctions.

**Fifth:** Promote partnership, transparency and accountability between governmental bodies, civil society and social movements.

## UN NEWS



UNEP

### **Act#ForNature Forum in Support of UNEA-5**

The Act#ForNature Forum is the first global consultation in support of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment – the UN Environment Assembly. It will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The major events of the Forum will include:

- International Consultation of Major Groups and Stakeholders for the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- Virtual Global Townhalls (Working with the environment to protect people in a post-COVID world; Healthy ecosystems for healthy people; Transformational change for nature and business;
- Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives

We look forward to participating and witnessing all the wonderful work that comes out of this important platform.

UNEP NEWS

### **UN Environment Programme Announces Theme for World Environment Day 2020**

This year, it's Time for Nature. UNEP announced that World Environment Day 2020 will fall on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, under the theme "biodiversity" – a call to action to combat the accelerating species loss and degradation of the natural world. Columbia is to host the environmentally inclined event in their home country, and in partnership with Germany. Ecosystems preserve human life and offer a multitude of essentials that sustain human life; clean air and water, the availability of nutritious foods, natural medicines and raw materials, and reduction in the occurrence of disasters and disease. However, when nature is not taken care of and preserved, disasters are inevitable. Top researchers across the globe have ascertained that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) advancing through nations around the world, is in fact a zoonotic disease. As nations across the world plan towards their economic recoveries, nature must be placed within the heart of all decision making for the health of the planet is synonymous to the health and survival of the human race.



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

### **UNCCD and Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is assisting the UNCCD and its contracting parties with the rapid provision and deployment of Earth Observations datasets, country support, capacity building and training. Under UN SDG 15 (Life on Land), specifically Target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality, countries are striving to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation. Enhancing the monitoring data so that countries can take effective action has been taken on by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), an intergovernmental and inter-organisational body that brings countries and the major data providers together to solve Earth information challenges. The Earth observation (EO) tools and platforms will effectively monitor and report on SDG indicator 15.3.1 every four years, as well as support longer term efforts to develop international standards and protocols on LDN and land degradation monitoring. Read more in the link below, <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/it-takes-right-information-build-back-better>

UNCCD NEWS

**“Recycle. Reforest. Repeat.”**

EEG invites you all from **17<sup>th</sup> June** to **20<sup>th</sup> July** to take part in the Recycle.Reforest.Repeat (3R) project for this year.

Bring your paper collections to us for recycling and plant an indigenous tree on your name.

**Cleaner Air and Land Degradation Neutrality is achievable!**



**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 May 2020

**CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

Adeeb Electrical & Electronics Services LLC	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 in the month of May amidst ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Adhering to the restrictions of social distancing and taking care of all the preventive measures, EEG has received recyclable materials from 245 participants. 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 May**



27,986 kg  
**Paper**



98 kg  
**Aluminium Cans**



902 kg  
**Glass Bottles**



7 pcs  
**Toners**



2,992 kg  
**Plastic**



81 pcs  
**Mobile Phones**

**Environmental savings for the month**



115 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e



220 m<sup>3</sup> of landfill space



827 Million BTU of energy



542 trees



285 gallons of gasoline