



EEG CORP NEWS

Together for a Better Environment©

TRANSITIONING TO VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENTS



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Recycle. Reforest. Repeat.

From 17th June,
to 20th July, 2020



3rd Online Panel Discussion



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BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES: Every SATURDAY, 9:00AM to 4:00PM.
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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

"Time is running out but there is reason for hope!" – Jane Goodall

We have witnessed a stark reality with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. But most importantly, we have learned to capture the best of the pandemic to collaborate for positive and successful long term solutions.

The year 2019 was the second warmest on record and the end of the warmest decade (2010- 2019). In addition, with a global average temperature of 1.1°C above estimated pre-industrial levels, the global community appears to be off track to meeting either the 1.5°C or 2°C targets called for in the Paris Agreement. It is the right time now more than ever to re-define our relationship with the environment, and make systemic shifts and transformational changes towards more climate -resilient economies and societies.

Being accredited to UNEP and as a member of global platforms such as GISD Alliance, UNCCD, and Global Urban Development, I had the honour to join groundbreaking discussions that laid out action-oriented strategies. The passionate working groups strengthening their existing commitments and developing new action plans are truly a mark of the concerted efforts that the world needs to embark on for a sustainable and harmonic world.

EEG also had valuable engagements in the month of June with its growing network of SISD, Pearl Initiative, CEBC, EGBC, One Planet Network, Accenture, Piaget and many others to finding synergies and building upon existing collaborations. Our first-ever virtual awarding ceremony for the Emirates Recycling Awards was the highlight of the month, wherein not only did we award the winners of EEG waste management and recycling programmes, but we saw the genuine expressions and sheer excitement in the faces of our young eco-champions in the country.

Now that the Government is achieving control over the spread of COVID-19 and restrictions are easing up in transport and operations, EEG is building up the momentum that it started in the beginning of the year. It is committed to reconnecting with its members (individual, academia and corporate) to facilitate more tangible actions towards environmental sustainability by expanding its network and community engagements further as its mantra to act locally for global impacts.

We therefore, urge all our avid readers, followers and members, to join us as we venture towards a brighter future. 'Each one, Reach one' has to be practiced for a healthier and better world in years to come.

In the 2020 Report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Secretary-General has stated that achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalised and enhanced global partnership that brings together governments, civil society, the private sector and society at large to mobilise all available resources. EEG has resolved to be an active player in this and your participation will contribute in strengthening our efforts. Our annual, and much anticipated projects; the '**Neighbourhood Recycling Programme**' & '**Recycle. Reforest. Repeat**' are awaiting vigorous participation from all of you to leave a positive impact during these critical times that the world is currently facing. Individual efforts are the pillars of the strong foundation that we are building for a resilient future, and EEG projects are a call for action towards this progressive path.

We are also building upon our upcoming 3rd Panel Discussion on 'Tackling the Climate Emergency with Climate Finance' set to take place on **28th July**. We have eloquent speakers on board, who will speak about and dissect the urgent need for increasing government and private spending on crucial sectors such as health, education, infrastructure and climate change, especially in context of the UAE. I invite you all to participate and make this a grand success akin to the last panel discussion held in May, which saw a host of attendees from all sectors and all parts of the society. EEG as always, is very active on social media platforms to ensure we reach out to one and all. Follow us to get familiar with all of our feature activities and upcoming events.

I believe you will enjoy reading this issue, as we bring up to speed with what EEG has been up to in the month of June, as well as what is happening on local, regional and global platforms. I hope that this read will spark the light of 'environmentalism' in each and every one of you and inspire you to be a good steward of our only planet 'Earth'. Let's join efforts for a sustainable and inclusive recovery, where no one is left behind!

I invite you all to work together for a better environment!

Engaging with UNEP

EEG attended 5 important virtual meetings of the UNEP in the month of June.

1)

a) Subcommittee Meeting 1st – 4th June While the first meeting discussed the 2018 - 2019 Programme Performance Report and the new UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022 – 25. The Secretariat gave an overview of UNEP's resources and management including human resources, budgetary expenditure, risk management and funding challenges, taking note of the trend for tight earmarking rather than soft earmarking, and referred to the audit report and its implementation to strengthen UNEP.

b) Subcommittee Meeting 2nd – 23rd June The second meeting focused on the preparations for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of UNEP. The Secretariat gave insight into the consultations carried out with Member States and their respective recommendations. It was established that the commemorations of the 50th anniversary would be launched at UNEA-5 in Nairobi in February 2021. The Secretariat also discussed possible engagement and outreach activities following the launch of the commemoration, including using 'global conservation' as an outreach strategy.

2) EEG attended the Act #ForNature Forum, which took place virtually from the **7th to 11th June**. This was the first global consultation in support of the 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA). The Forum was attended by citizens, governments NGO's, businesses and scientific institutions from across the globe to engage in a series of open and inclusive discussions covering a range of topics from healthy ecosystems and marine plastics to global food systems and more. The consultation focused on:



Health and Environment:
What a post-pandemic
recovery looks like



Tackling Ocean
Pollution



Ecosystem Restoration,
Biodiversity, & Development



Involvement &
Implementation

The first day concluded with interesting discussions on how to advance outcomes of the consultation towards UNEA-5 and beyond in a strategic manner. Days 2, 3, and 4 included discussions in different Town Halls that focused on

1. Healthy Ecosystems for Healthy People: Limiting the Impact and Future Emergence of Zoonotic Diseases
2. Adapt to Thrive: Transformational Change for Nature and Business
3. Turning the Tide on Marine Plastics: How UNEA-5 Can be a Turning Point
4. Connecting People and Nature: Transforming the Global Food System
5. Youth Voices for Nature: Environmental Governance in the Time of Covid-19

3) Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) attended on 8th June a town hall session titled – "Adapt to Thrive: Transformational Change for Nature and Business". This was part of a series of townhalls organised during the Act #ForNature Forum. The expert panel explored how the crisis exposed the fragility of humanity and ecosystems while highlighting the importance of a green recovery. The purpose of this townhall was to discuss some of the actions that businesses can take to make better environmentally conscious decisions. Some of the recommendations on what businesses must do to 'thrive' included:

- Health and Environment: What a post-pandemic recovery looks like
- Tackling Ocean Pollution
- Ecosystem Restoration, Biodiversity, & Development
- Involvement & Implementation
- Using low carbon energy
- Engage in regenerative agriculture
- Using less hazardous chemicals and more efficiently

- Increased resource efficiency to achieve decoupling of economic activity from environmental impacts and resource use
- Develop substantial space for innovation, experimentation, diverse, proactive thinking
- Refreshing social and environmental purpose
- Context-based strategy and goals as pole stars for investment
- Integration of financial and non-financial thinking and reporting
- Mobilising consumer behaviour and choice

EEG would like to congratulate UNEP and all supporting organisations/stakeholders for the brilliant four-day event that witnessed astounding participation from all over the world.

4) In a world under threat from global health concerns, economic challenges, biodiversity loss and climate change, our living and lifestyle decisions will collectively determine our future. On **23rd June**, EEG attended the first webinar of UNEP's new series on "Sustainable Living 1.5: Empowering people to live better and lighter" organised in close collaboration with the One Planet Network. Moderated by the UNEP Sustainable Lifestyles Programme Officer, this webinar brought together experts from research, business and media to offer their vision on sustainable living and COVID-19 trends, and the role of businesses and media in building back better with a people-centric approach. Insightful presentations from the Lead Author in cornerstone research on sustainable living and lifestyles, Sustainability Communication Manager of Inter IKEA Group and Expert in content and digital media led interesting discussions on sustainable lifestyle and opportunities in a post COVID world.

5) EEG attended a webinar on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030, jointly organised by UNEP and the FAO. It was mentioned that the UN Decade is now based on the principle of new power – which means all stakeholders are empowered to become part of this Decade and implement its strategy. There were a number of wonderful presentations as part of the webinar, outlining what major organisations and partners are doing in their endeavours to push forth the idea of the UN Decade. These included the FAO, IUCN, World Economic Forum, UNCCD, UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity and more.

Engaging with SISD

1) EEG participated in a webinar organised by Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development (SISD), in association with Sida and GISD, on **2nd June** to discuss SDGs as a framework for investments and to bridge the gap between investment and implementation. The webinar emphasized on the potential for partnership between development and financial actors, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Financing for Development Agenda. The session covered presentations on SDG no. 5, 6, 8, 11 and 13. The groups have committed to exploring investment opportunities to achieve improvement in diversity and gender balance; promoting investments to provide clean water and sanitation for all; exploring investors' engagement in human rights for effective responsible actions; and engaging with the Task Force for Climate Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD). They have also discovered investment opportunities in sustainable cities and made an investment in special green bonds.

2) On **3rd June**, EEG attended an exclusive virtual conference titled 'Finance and Development Leaders in Joint Action' organised by SISD in partnership with UNDESA and Sida, and in conjunction with the conference for GISD. Featuring several global leaders, the conference focused on Building Back Better from the COVID-19 crisis. As the world continues to combat the pandemic, countries have become overwhelmed with the additional burdens imposed on public health systems and national budgets. The shifts in the global financial system could set the world on track for sustainable recovery. The conference served as a virtual call to action, as finance and development leaders join for a more equitable and sustainable world. The sessions were headed on the impact of COVID-19 on Financing for Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda. The meetings discussed strategies to maximise the positive impacts of private sector response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of GISD in scaling-up long-term investment for a sustainable recovery. The full Conference is available in the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqyw5W16Jk&feature=youtu.be>

Engaging with GISD

1) **4th June:** The Strategy Group Meeting, moderated by the Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office (DESA), discussed the role of the GISD Alliance in shaping the response to, and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting focused on the role of GISD in response and recovery, status of GISD-EC collaboration, and working group deliverables. UNDP's SDG Investor Maps and Practice Assurance Standards provide market intelligence and strategies to governments and private sectors to identify and design concrete investments opportunities. The Group expressed its commitment to align with 2030 Agenda by developing concrete solutions and strategies in the Statement of Action. In response to the EEG chairperson's question on gaps in the sustainable finance toolbox, it was pointed out that this gap has obstructed the creation of a unified practice standard that is recognised, transparent and transactional in a market where assurance becomes extremely important.

2) **10th June:** The UN Secretary-General convened the extraordinary virtual meeting of the GISD Alliance members to reinforce the call to action for addressing the unprecedented crisis and push governments in creating greener jobs and build sustainable investment, structures and policies. Taking this crisis as a strong wake up call, the UN Secretary General urged the members of the GISD to go beyond the approaches of the past and align the concrete efforts with the 2030 Agenda. To implement actions for achieving SDGs effectively, business giants worth USD 16 trillion have committed to mobilise resources for inclusive and sustainable recovery. The action-oriented discussion among the GISD members focused on identifying the risks and opportunities posed by COVID-19 for the SDGs; developing solutions to align the recovery with the 2030 Agenda; rethinking businesses for the future; and identifying actions for the GISD. Sending a message of unity and commitment to enhance public and private sector collaboration, the GISD has issued a strong Statement of Action to transform finance and investment to bring the world on a trajectory to sustainable development. The EEG Chairperson, a member of GISD Alliance, also shared her inputs on the construction sector and said, "We have at this moment of the global crisis, a unique opportunity to shift the course of the building sector and earmark investments for green construction". Follow the link for the full Statement of Action, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/financing/document/statement-action-global-investors-sustainable-development-alliance>

3) On **11th June**, the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) hosted a call to present four new deals that aim towards financing projects in developing countries to the GISD Alliance Working Group 2 (WG2), Deliverable Group 2 (D2) members for their consideration. The UNCDF opened the meeting by congratulating UNDESA on the successful Extraordinary Session of the GISD, which took place the day before the D2 call, on **10th June**, where speakers expressed the urgency of responding to COVID-19 while remaining focused on achieving SDGs. During the call, the GISD co-chair cited deals that have come out of the WG2 D2 group as ways GISD will help shift flows of finance behind SDG investments. The meeting saw presentations from the Women's Empowerment Fund, the Finance in Motion Eco Business Fund, Climate Fund Managers and responsAbility.

4) On **30th June**, further to GISD's Strategy Group deliberation, UNDP hosted a detailed presentation on the new SDG Impact Standards for SDG Bonds and Private Equity Funds to provide guidance on piloting the Standards with GISD's oversight. The GISD Alliance has committed to "foster the harmonisation of standards for sustainability reporting and impact measurement to enhance the impact and transparency of investments for all stakeholders." UNDP has made a significant investment using its unique position in the market and role as an integrator of the SDGs to set about developing SDG Impact Standards, which aim to address the significant gap in the existing toolbox to equip investors, financiers and enterprises with what they need to be forward leading in these efforts. It offers potential to provide a practical, fast, and scalable way forward to achieve our collective aims. Follow the link for details on SDG Impact Standards, <https://sdgimpact.undp.org/practice-standards.html>

Engaging with Pearl Initiative

1) On 2nd June, EEG attended a research-based webinar organised by the Pearl Initiative. The webinar focused on the implications of new economic and social policies across the Gulf Region in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CEO & Chief Economist of Arabia Monitor described the impacts of the new policies on the business environment and investments in the Gulf Region. Due to the oil market crash as a result of global slowdown and falling economy, businesses need to re-stack risks, revise strategies and review their economic models. Special emphasis was made on slow economic growth, trade depletion, the sinking of FDI, stimulus packages, Sino Arab trade, Belt Road Initiative (BRI), and rising youth unemployment. It has also been observed that amid the pandemic, the Middle East has embraced various online streaming options such as, StarzPlay, Netflix, MBC Shahid Plus, to name a few. The MENA COVID-19 Situation Report can be downloaded here,

https://www.dropbox.com/s/dm8gu01njabq5fz/MENA_COVID_19_Situation_Report_10_01_June_2020_.pdf?dl=0

2) EEG was delighted to join a webinar organised by the Pearl Initiative on 11th June to learn more about factors leading to the success and growth of the non-profit sector across the Gulf Region. Despite efforts to support the sector, there is still room for improvement, particularly in Saudi Arabia, where they have set ambitious targets for the growth of the sector and its contribution to the GDP in the Saudi Vision 2030. Facilitated by Executive Manager of Corporate Communications at Nesma Holding, this webinar addressed the challenges that the sector faces in Saudi Arabia towards the fulfillment of Saudi Vision 2030. Further, it discussed the developmental elements of the sector, which is now looked at as a measurement of the advancement of societies across the world.

Engaging with CEBC

1) On 4th June, EEG had the pleasure of attending an informative webinar held by the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) that detailed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures on ESCO and M&V activities in the Middle East. The panel included established guest speakers from EVO, ENGIE Smart4Power and ENOVA. Measurement & Verification (M&V) is the process of using measurements to reliably determine actual saving created within an individual facility by an energy management programme. EVO opened the webinar by demonstrating the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP) which is an internationally used framework to measure energy savings which also currently stands as the most widely recognised measurement standard in the ESCO industry worldwide. The established guest speakers also presented case studies from hotels and malls based in the UAE and their energy savings during lockdown measures.

2) On 24th June, EEG had the pleasure of attending an insightful webinar hosted by The Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) on the digitalisation of the power sector to discuss landscape and opportunities in MENA Region. The webinar welcomed esteemed guest speakers from BloombergNEF, Schneider Electric Gulf and GE Renewable Energy. With a focus on the MENA Region, the expert panellists explored topics on recent innovations and various technologies developed throughout the energy value chain, market trends in the energy sector, grid specific technologies and the benefits of grid digital transition, case studies of successfully-implemented digital projects, and different challenges facing digitalisation and the opportunities ahead focusing on the Region. Trends show a rise in tech companies partnering up with utilities in recent years and in light of the current pandemic, as utilities look for ways to transition into more efficient, technologically advanced methods of renewable energy.

Investing to Champion the Female Economy

On 2nd June, EEG joined the webinar organised by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Financial Alliance for Women that explored the business case for supporting women customers and employees to promote gender equality and championing the female economy. The webinar discussed the tools to develop a gender intelligent strategy to expand the financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction.

The speakers from financial services companies enlightened the participants with deeper insights. The Executive Vice Chair of Mastercard & Chair of the Financial Alliance for Women mentioned the need to catalyse the inclusion of women and importance of bringing 1 billion women into the financial system. There will be an enhanced focus on women empowerment journey and SMEs, and also on the solidarity fund to increase support against women violence. As per the data of AXA, women are a strong and stable source of deposits with great loyalty.

COVID-19's Effects on Plastic Recycling Market

On 4th June, EEG had the pleasure of attending the 2nd virtual forum in a series of webinars newly implemented by Waste & Recycling MEA that explored the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on plastic recycling industries in India, China and Europe. The expert panellists Executive President of Fukutomi Recycling Company, Chairman of Gemini Corporation N.V. and Founder & CEO of SustainMantra shared their observations and analysis on the long-term impacts, the pandemic poses on the plastic recycling sector. All panellists agreed that the pandemic and lockdown measures caused major disruptions in plastic recycling demand and production, and explored the role of plastic in the medical frontlines of the pandemic—was plastic a hero or villain in the position it played in the production of essential PPE and biomedical equipment? The webinar concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where audience members challenged panellists on plastic waste management in the wake of a pandemic, and what best practices for proper recycling of plastics are used in the medical industry.

EEG Celebrates Swedish National Day Virtually with Swedish Business Council

For the seventh year in a row, in support of the Embassy of Sweden, the Swedish Business Council celebrated their National Day on, **6th June** - only this time it was done virtually. EEG Chairperson joined longtime partners of EEG, the Swedish Business Council, in celebrating their National Day through a virtual ceremony. The event welcomed guests from the local Swedish community, business partners, and friends and families of the council from around the world to celebrate the joyous occasion. Music at the virtual event was conducted by the talented Lisette Uhlmann, and speeches were given by H.E. Ambassador Henrik Landerholm and the President of SBC, Pauline Madani.

Virtual Graduation Ceremony for the Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai

As a member of the advisory board, EEG Chairperson attended the virtual Graduation Ceremony for the Graduate Students of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Dubai, on **7th June**. 5 select graduate students from the Data Analytics and City Sciences programs presented their capstone projects – a practical application where they identify an area of problem and draft a solution using the skills that they acquired during their degree. President of RIT Dubai, delivered the welcoming address, and the Chair of Graduate Programs and Research followed by providing a brief overview of their graduate programme. Each of the five students who presented their projects had identified socially relevant themes, and explained how the solutions proposed in their project would be beneficial to all kinds of stakeholders in the long run. Their projects addressed topics such as anomalies in telecommunication, recommendation engines to boost customer satisfaction, implementing green aortas in cities to enhance sustainable development and a healthy lifestyle, among others.

Emirates Environmental Group Celebrates the 23rd Cycle of the Emirates Recycling Awards

On **8th June**, on the occasion of World Environment Day, EEG celebrated the green heroes of recycling and sustainability in the UAE during the first-ever, virtual awards ceremony held under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Ras Al-Khaimah and Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation and Honorary Member of EEG. The awarding ceremony also welcomed a myriad of environmental leaders from different sectors within the region. From VIP's and CEO's to Educational Faculty and Students to Media, and Government Officials the event brought together likeminded individuals with a unified, shared responsibility in protecting the environment. In her opening speech, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Chairperson and Co-Founder of EEG reflected on the World Environment Day celebrations organised this year under the theme "Biodiversity" which reinforces the message that it is "Time for Nature".



By awarding the winners of this cycle "Emirates Recycling Awards", EEG set a gold standard and appreciation for environmentally conscious individuals and groups in the country. EEG's various waste management campaigns sees nearly 2,000 schools and up to 500 company participants per year. This feat calls for celebration of the eco-champions who voluntarily join EEG's waste management campaigns and work hard to produce incredible results. This year's accomplishments towards a sustainable future in the UAE mark 23 years of excellence for the Emirates Recycling Awards. The virtual awards ceremony also recognised and announced the winners of the Environmental Drawing Competition that boasted the participation of more than 400 schools from across the UAE this year and the total participation of more than 145,000 students. The EDC is an extremely popular activity amongst the student community as it allows them to creatively express their perception of nature, environmental issues, climate change and other topics that pertain to the environment. EEG also awarded the teachers of each winning school, as they played an important role in mentoring the youth to become green-champions and instilled sustainable practices into the young and impressionable minds of their students. The winners of the six recycling campaigns were divided into three categories: Corporate, Academic and Individual.

Paper Recycling Winners:

- Nia Tony
- The School of Research Science
- UAE Exchange Al Saaja

Plastic Recycling Winners:

- Namaa Ismail Al Zarooni
- Our Own High School, Al Warqaa
- Emirates Flight Catering

Can Recycling Winners:

- Joseph Manoj Chittilappilly
- New York University Saadiyat Island
- Emirates Flight Catering

Mobile Recycling Winners:

- Shivani Adduri
- Our Own High School, Al Warqaa
- Dubai Public Prosecution

Glass Recycling Winners:

- Akanksha Singh
- New York University Saadiyat Island
- Emirates Flight Catering

Toners Recycling Winners:

- Muhammed Vakil
- Sharjah Electricity & Water Authority

EEG would like to extend its congratulations to all the winners of this year's ERA 2020 Awards for their impressive contributions and achievements and to the winners of the Environmental Drawing Competition 2020. We also extend our sincere gratitude to H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qassimi for his patronage and words of encouragement to our participants and young student, members. We would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters, who contributed to the events' immense success by offering their support and providing the gift hampers awarded to our winners. The event was sponsored by McDonalds UAE & EPSON, it was supported by Almarai, Del Monte, L'Oréal, Nikai Group of Companies, ITL Cosmos, Nestle Waters, the Al Hathboor Group and Save Our World.

UN Global Compact Leaders Summit

On 15th June, EEG was honored to be a part of the virtual celebration of UN Global Compact 20th anniversary of Leaders Summit. Leaders from business, government, UN and academia came together for conversations on how businesses can support communities around the world to recover better, stronger and together from three global crises – health, inequality and climate. The Summit was focused on rebuilding inclusive economies and societies to set a new course for a socially just, low-carbon and climate resilient world.



The UN Secretary-General has called COVID-19 “the greatest test that we have faced together since the formation of the United Nations”. EEG actively participated on sessions related to uniting business for a better world, refocusing on SDG Ambition for the Decade of Action and leadership through crisis, among others. Former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore, powerfully shared the messages on opportunity and optimism during these critical times and mentioned that the world needs a new awakening. He strongly appealed for new business models and stopping subsidies on fossil fuels.

Women for Impact

On 15th June, EEG Chairperson was invited to a webinar on ‘Giving a Voice to all Women in the International Economic Environment’, which was a joint initiative of Elite Business Women in partnership with a London-based entrepreneur and award-winning communicator. It discussed how women around the world are changing the way business is being done – from building bridges between countries to innovating industries and international relationships. With women redefining their ecosystems and pushing boundaries, changes on an individual, societal, economic and international level are being observed. The speakers were Founder & CEO of Elite Business Women, B20 Member Future of Work & Education Task Force and Vice Chair, International Chamber of Commerce

Energy Transitions in Europe and the GCC

In order to successfully achieve the UN SDGs, countries need to transition from a fossil-fuel-based economy to one that is powered by renewable sources of energy. On 16th June, EEG attended a webinar hosted by EU-GCC that welcomed a group of experts, representing the government and sustainability sectors in the Middle East and Europe to come together and discuss enabling energy transition in their respective regions. Each of the speakers provided an overview of the different steps and goals set by their organisations towards achieving smooth energy transition, and what specific sources of energy they utilised.

The speakers elucidated various ways to create opportunities to generate power from renewable energy sources and probed into the costs and infrastructural requirements associated with establishing the necessary facilities. The established guest speakers touched upon the importance of a comprehensive policy framework and the role of financial aid, international actors, and public opinion in facilitating smooth energy transition. They also highlighted the various geographic and political challenges in creating energy transition within their regions and provided some insightful solutions to tackle the same.

Tafahum Virtual Roundtable

On 17th June, EEG Chairperson attended Tafahum Virtual Roundtable “Environmental Issues and COVID-19”. Tafahum project is a 3 year initiative that started in 2018 and seeks to develop a roadmap for regional security in West Asia and Arabian Peninsula that includes the GCC states Iran, Iraq & Yemen. EEG Chairperson shared her views on the inter-relations between the pandemic and climate change, and how the transregional ‘shock’ of the COVID-19 pandemic can boost regional cooperation to curb the severe effects of climate change. On a regional note, she mentioned that the Government of UAE has been very proactive since the early outbreak of the pandemic on the national health security level and now, as the country is focused on recovering from its economic losses, concrete efforts are being strategised for green & sustainable recovery by cutting carbon emissions.



Public Private Connect Virtual Webinar on Business Incentives During COVID-19

On the 17th June, EEG Chairperson joined the Public Private Connect Virtual Webinar organised by Dubai FDI that shed light on business incentives during COVID-19. The Public Private Connect, which has been ongoing for several years, connects businesses to bring knowledge, and shares regulatory updates and vital changes in the investment environment. Moderated by the Head of Debt Advisory and Restructuring of EY, the webinar received participation from over 180 nationalities to discuss the needs of business community.

The CEO of Dubai FDI gave the opening remarks, which were followed by presentations from Assistant Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Affairs – Ministry of Economy, CEO of Corporate Strategic Affairs – DED, and Senior Director of Sales – DAFZA. The expert speakers led the webinar on initiatives and incentives offered by the Federal and Local Government, and also incentives coming from great efforts done in free zone to ensure we get through this crisis united and stronger. They also highlighted that COVID-19 already has tremendous effects on the macroeconomic state of the world with greater impacts to come. Follow the link for full recording of the webinar,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtsy7tc6XII&app=desktop>

EEG Engaging Effectively in Global Urban Development

GUD is a worldwide non-profit organisation founded in 2001, consisting of a rapidly growing network of more than 600 dynamic and well-known urban leaders and experts in 60 countries. They conduct education, research, and action to promote policy ideas that help generate more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive urban development throughout the world. On **19th June**, EEG Chairperson, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, board member of Global Urban Development (GUD), joined the virtual board meeting that discussed issues of housing and urban development post COVID-19. The discussion focused on 3D Housing and Sustainable Development for energy and financial efficiency.

The meeting also discussed the innovative work of World Health Organisation's new global project on Urban Governance for Health and Well-being, CLIC project on cultural heritage and circular economy, Sustainable Innovation Community and Global Participatory Budgeting Hub. To know more about Global Urban Development, please visit <https://www.globalurban.net/>

National Job Standards for CSR Directors in Non-Profit Sector

On **20th June**, EEG Chairperson was invited by the Al Fozan Academy & the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of Saudi Arabia to join a workshop and share views in developing standards for the positions of the CSR directors in non-profit sector. This was organised as a partnership between Al Fozan Academy and King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals. The discussions focused on building standards and technical capabilities for the leadership development in non-profit institutions, wherein innovations and strategies were identified as key tools for sustainability.

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Farnek Group's Hitches & Glitches Launches Battery Recycling Initiative

Dubai-based sustainable home maintenance specialist Hitches & Glitches (H&G), part of the Farnek Group and member of EEG announced the launch of a new battery recycling initiative for its residential customers, that have existing maintenance contracts, in honour of World Environment Day 2020.

To support their customers in adopting recycling habits, Hitches & Glitches' maintenance technicians will collect their alkaline, lithium ion and nickel cadmium batteries, which are the most common type of battery found in household waste. "We will provide our customers with branded containers, so that they can deposit small used batteries which will be collected during our next scheduled visit," said Director of H&G, adding that the batteries will then be delivered to a local recycling company for processing.

Apparel Group Soaring High for Sustainability

EEG is proud to announce that its board member, Apparel Group released the 2019 Sustainability Report on World Environment Day 2020 with outstanding environmental and social success. It has installed a 1.7 MWp rooftop solar power system at its headquarters in Jebel Ali, which assists in reducing 2,121 metric tonnes of CO₂ emission annually. To tackle single-use plastic pollution, it has phased out 5 million single-use plastic shopping bags and has eliminated 1 million single-use plastic items such as water bottles and spoons, foam plates and cups by providing employees with reusable alternatives. On its mission to raise awareness and actively engage in activities to divert waste from landfill, it diverted 86.57 tonnes of customer returns, damaged & unwanted clothes and footwear from the landfill in 2019. 57% of the products were repaired and resold, 33% repurposed into raw material, and 10% sent to waste-to-energy plants.

On Community Social Impact, the Group employs 16 People of Determination and in 2019, store teams received training in American Sign Language (ASL) to cater to customers with special needs. Besides this, Apparel Group empowered over 82,000 beneficiaries. Through its brands TOMS, Skechers, Nine West, The Children's Place and Aldo, Apparel Group donated footwear and clothes & raised funds for projects across the UAE, Yemen, Jordan, Syria and Ghana. Apparel Group is a signatory of UN Global Compact and UN Women's Empowerment Principles.

AG Engineering LLC renews and AG Power LLC becomes new Corporate Member of EEG

AG Engineering LLC has its expertise in the field of Building Services and Infrastructure Projects, whilst executing Turnkey & EPC Contracts of Data Centres and District Cooling Projects, commencing from Design & Build to Maintenance of Services. The mission of AG Engineering is to offer reliable, sustainable, and innovative engineering solutions to the building & infrastructure industry while maintaining the highest standards of quality, health & safety, and environmental protection. AGE has a robust Integrated Management System in place which has yielded numerous prestigious awards like the SKEA Silver and the Five Star Rating from the British Safety Council, U.K. AG Power LLC is a specialised company undertaking EPC works, as a Main Contractor of Electrical Substations and HV cabling for various Statutory Authorities like FEWA, DEWA, AADC, ADDC, TRANSCO along with numerous other private developers. The mission of AG Power is to deliver customer focused, sustainable, trendsetting, value driven power transmission & distribution solutions in an innovative, quality conscious approach complying with exemplary international standards of occupational health, safety, and environmental protection. The organisation is accredited by ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and OHSAS 18001:2007 standards and has attained the International Safety Award by British Safety Council, U.K.

The IRP Releases Policy Recommendation Series in Context of COVID-19

The International Resource Panel (IRP) composed and released a paper entitled "Building Resilient Societies after the COVID-19 Pandemic" that provides policy recommendations extracted from IRP research conducted over the past 10 years to drive resource smart recovery, and generate socio-economic value while safeguarding the environment. The paper expresses the importance of adopting "green" stimulus packages with elements of resource efficiency as a response to the economic impacts of the pandemic while also urging the reassessment of current food systems to more efficient and sustainable ones. 'A successful recovery from this global pandemic will be one that brings a new era of social and economic prosperity for all within the planet's natural capacities to perform. A new relationship with nature and an efficient use of our natural resources will be key to this success.' reads the IRP Policy Recommendation document.

Download the full document: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/building-resilient-societies-after-covid-19-pandemic>

It's Time for Nature

This year, the celebrations for the 46th annual World Environmental Day were co-hosted and streamed live online by Colombia and Germany, who, alongside the UNEP, declared this year to be the "**Time #ForNature**". This theme serves as a call for action to combat the increasing loss of species and degradation of the ecosystem. The outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic has shown us that irresponsible decisions will cause devastating impacts on our health, economy, and the global society. The problem is that development has always been at the cost of the environment, and this consistent ecological imbalance is partly the reason for the severity of the ongoing pandemic. Therefore, it is time that we take affirmative action, and begin to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. In light of this matter, several countries around the world have adopted policies to preserve their local ecosystems and to prevent further degradation of the environment. In addition, the youth across the world have mobilised to support for the "Race to Zero". What the world needs now is collective action and multilateral solutions to environmental challenges. In the words of the UN Secretary General, "On World Environment Day and every day, it's time for nature." Follow the link for the highlights of this year's World Environmental Day celebration:

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/latest/host-country-programme>

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema of Tanzania Appointed Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

EEG extends a most sincere congratulation to Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema for her appointment as Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, based in Montreal Canada. On **9th June**, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, following consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), announced the appointment of Elizabeth Maruma Mrema of Tanzania as Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since December 2019, Ms. Mrema has been the Acting Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat. Prior to that, Ms. Mrema served as Director of the Law Division at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. With over two decades of experience at the United Nations, Ms. Mrema brings to the position extensive experience in global environmental law and policymaking, implementation of environmental and sustainable development programmes, and a deep knowledge of multilateral processes.

2020 HLPF Special Virtual Events Organised by UN DESA and its Partner Agencies and Organisations

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want". The Forum meets annually with the support of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the aegis of the General Assembly for two days. The high profile event primarily serves as a knowledge platform on sustainable development goals. This year, the UN DESA and its partner agencies and organisations will hold special virtual events on the margins of the 2020 HLPF from **9th July to 18th July**. These special events include programmes such as SDG learning, training and practice capacity building workshops, a local and regional governments forum and other insightful panel discussions, workshops and virtual forums all to be held virtually.



UNCCD NEWS

UNCCD Global Observance of Desertification and Drought Day 2020

Desertification and Drought Day, a United Nations observance day held on 17th June each year, in 2020 focused on changing public attitudes towards the leading drivers of desertification and land degradation under the theme of, humanity's relentless production and consumption. This year's Desertification and Drought Day global observance event was hosted by Korea Forest Service (KFS) and took place online, with a full-day program that featured a variety of exciting events and international talents broadcasted via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. The global observance explored the following themes of; changing the way we use and restore the land, sustainable consumption patterns and the role on young people in the digital age, the impacts of desertification in food systems and movement towards a sustainable fashion industry. The programme also included video, film and documentary screenings as well as official video messages from prominent NGOs, Governments and Institutions from various countries across the world. The global event closed with a re-run showing of UNCCD Desertification and Drought Day Talk show



**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 5 New Individual members, 1 new & 1 renewed Corporate member during the month of June 2020

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Chaitali Ramesh Patel | New | Ananda Bose | New |
| David J.E. Chambers | New | Jaouad Makhlof | New |
| Casey Chambers | New | | |

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------------|---------|
| AG Power LLC | New | AG Engineering LLC | Renewal |
|--------------|-----|--------------------|---------|

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 June 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 373 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 June



51,821 kg
Paper



55 kg
Aluminium Cans



1,417 kg
Glass Bottles



263 pcs
Toners



4,224 kg
Plastic



686 pcs
Mobile Phones

Environmental savings for the month



209 MT CO₂e



348 m³ of
landfill space



1,425 Million BTU
of energy



1,444 trees



2,482 gallons
of gasoline