

# EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
GROUP



August 2020  
Issue 8



Eid Al Ad'ha Al Mubarak



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

My best greetings to all our members and readers, as we return from the short holiday on the occasion of Eid Al Ad'ha. I trust you all had a peaceful time with your family. May Allah bless us all with good health and the speedy recovery from the effects of this ongoing pandemic! We are more than halfway through 2020, some would say it passed on too slow while others will say it rushed too fast while dealing with the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19. At EEG, we have learnt to use every stumbling block as a stepping stone to learn more and to transition better for a healthier, more peaceful and sustainable world. The discipline of not backing down helped us not to frail even during these trying times.

The visionary 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were formulated by the United Nations and adopted by the member states was taking a modest shape to achieve its set targets, these efforts were disrupted by the pandemic and the world is now forced to think differently to Build Back Better in a new normal. In the month of July, the UN Secretary-General issued 'Policy brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World', which reveals that with an estimated 90 % of all reported COVID-19 cases, urban areas have become the epicenter of the pandemic. Through this policy brief, the Secretary-General has called for intensified commitments and action-oriented approach in three key areas, tackling inequalities and development deficits; strengthening the capacities of local actors, particularly local governments and; pursuing a resilient, inclusive, gender equal and green economic recovery.

EEG has always been honoured to be a part of global platforms, specifically as an accredited member of UNEP and UNCCD. We have been privileged to contribute in the strategy formation, policy building and witness the concerted efforts being developed for one common goal of achieving long term and inclusive recovery. We were actively engaged during the month of July in various sessions of High-Level Political Forums organised by United Nations and participated in the discussion groups of Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, where I am privileged to be a member.

EEG organised its 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel discussion of the year titled 'Tackling the climate emergency with Climate Finance' on 28<sup>th</sup> July, supported by Arabia CSR Network, the Clean Energy Business Council, Emirates Green Building Council and the Swiss Business Council. The subject and field experts addressed the roles of public and private stakeholders in

leading the world towards climate-friendly and resilient environment. It also facilitated dialogue about the financial opportunities in the UAE that can be diverted towards combating climate change.

The "Recycle.Reforest.Repeat" Project showed strong commitments from the participants and we salute each one of you for pushing your limits and doing your best for the environment. This year has awakened the call to nurture nature. Therefore, I request you all to participate and spread the word about engaging in projects of EEG. Firstly, I encourage all the parents to enroll their children for 'Neighbourhood Recycling Programme', which for the first time ever is open to all the students, whether they are members or non-members of EEG. The programme will be ongoing till the end of September and we hope to see more participation from students all over the country.

The second phase of One Root One Communi-Tree (OROC) will also begin in August and I am, by all means confident of your extraordinary participation. This gives an opportunity to all academia, corporations, families and individuals to plant trees under their names by depositing recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, aluminium cans, toners, glass and mobile phones. Your individual efforts are a great contribution in healing the world and leading our society for a better tomorrow.

However, towards the end of the month, we all came across the saddening news of the passing of Ms. Dureen Mehdi, a passionate and inspiring young environmentalist from Oman. She was a part of EEG family as a committed jury for the PAN-Arab Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition. Her values and perseverance to lead society towards sustainable living has motivated many and would continue to impact because of the legacy she left behind for others to follow. We extend our heartfelt condolence to the family, friends and the whole of Omani society.

In this issue, we are bringing to you some awe-inspiring updates as a part of our strong engagements around the world. We are also happy to share with you eye-opening reports launched by the United Nations and IUCN that would rekindle your urge to take one more step towards sustainability and nature conservation. And last but not the least, the UN Resident Coordinator Office, UAE has an exciting vacancy for a zealous and passionate candidate. Dive in to our newsletter for all the details.



## Engaging in HLPF Formal Events

EEG was delighted to participate in the several sessions of high-level political forum (HLPF) in the month of July, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The HLPF is the annual and core United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and this year's theme was "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

### 9<sup>th</sup> July *Global Acceleration Framework*

EEG attended the official launch of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework organised by the United Nations and UN Water during the formal event in HLPF. The Framework aims at delivering the promise of safe water and sanitation for all by 2030. The webinar featured eminent global leaders including the UN Secretary General, Executive Director of UNEP and the Directors of other UN Subsidiary Bodies, who elucidated the urgent need to mobilise action towards improving access to water and sanitation. Amid the pandemic, 3 billion people still lack basic handwashing facilities and therefore, stronger commitment towards a promising and sustainable future was

set through the launch of the framework. In the context of water wisdom, the UN Water Technical Advisory Unit informed that on 'Our World Water Day' and 'World Toilet Day' campaigns, they receive 2 billion people reach on social media with thousands of individuals organising events to raise awareness each year.

Framework is available, please click



There is still a lot of potential for people to raise awareness and in 2021, the campaign theme for World Water day is 'Valuing Water', which would be an opportunity for people to get more acquainted with water wisdom.

### 13<sup>th</sup> July *Third Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda*

EEG Chairperson participated in the Special High-Level Forum themed on "The Decade of Action - bolstering change from the ground-up" organised by UN entities and partners, including UN DESA, UN-Habitat and Local 2030, UNDP and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments ensuring regional, gender and multi-sectoral balance.

The Forum emphasised on the importance of multi-level governance, sound local finances, and de-centralised cooperation and territorial cohesion in the aftermath of the outbreak for bottom-up transformation

towards sustainability and resilience, while contributing to the Decade of Action. Local and regional government representatives have a key role to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in territories while ensuring access to essential public services, including housing, public transport and education, as well as access to food supplies and support to the most vulnerable, among other tasks. The COVID-19 aftermath is an opportunity to go beyond temporary solutions to build the long-term resilience of regions, cities and communities by choosing recovery policies that build back better, utilising the SDGs as an overarching framework and multilevel governance as its core.

### 13<sup>th</sup> July *Financing Health Systems to Strengthen Preparedness for Future Shocks*

EEG attended the 2020 HLPF's Voluntary National Review Lab session on 'Financing health systems to strengthen preparedness for future shocks'. The rich discussion was moderated by the Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA.

The superb panelists from WHO, World Bank, Ministry of Health of Ghana, Keio University, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) and Medtronic focused on how the private and public sectors can work more closely to attain Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030. According to World Bank and WHO, countries must increase primary healthcare spending by at least 1% of their GDP to close coverage gaps and meet

the health targets agreed under the SDGs. This calls for New Investment Framework to build resilient health system for collective action.

The session raised awareness of the financing gaps and showcased solutions to financing health systems, building on lessons learned from COVID-19.

They also addressed the key questions related to the mobilisation of adequate resources for both immediate health response and longer-term health system strengthening, measures taken by international support, and public-private partnerships that prove scalability and applicability in financing UHC.

### 14<sup>th</sup> July *Mobilising Support and Building National Partnerships*

EEG joined the VNR Lab on "Beyond the VNRs: mobilising support and building national partnerships", which explored and showcased practices on how countries can systematically catalyse national multi-stakeholder partnerships for mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support implementation of the SDGs, including through their VNR process.

The session was moderated by UN Resident Coordinator, Kenya and the panelists were from State Department of Youth Affairs - Government of Kenya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade - Government of

Samoa, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) - Government of India and Prime Minister's Office - Government of Finland. The Executive Director of Partnering Initiative gave an inspiring presentation on 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator.

Full recording is available in the link please click



The Lab also explored how countries can help creating an enabling environment that may encourage and foster collaboration across stakeholders by sharing the success and challenges of each country. The session concluded with a strong message on role of leadership



## 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 HLPF Parallel Dialogue on Sustainable Cities

EEG Chairperson, a board member of the Global Urban Development joined her colleagues from the Global Urban Development (GUD) in the Urban Cluster Dialogue session of the UN's High Level Political Forum, wherein they shared their upbeat suggestions on 'Sustainable Cities and COVID-19: Plans for Action'. The interactive dialogue focused on how the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals now taking place in urban places is so vitally important to the global recovery. The successful achievement of 65% of the 169 SDG targets will occur in cities and is critical to ensure that we 'build back better' from the existing COVID-19 crisis. Plans for action included innovations across the world from New York City to Nairobi and speakers were drawn from non-governmental organisations, grassroots, academia, the United Nations and professions. The key note speech was delivered by Global Solutions Division UN-Habitat in Nairobi and Director of Global Advocacy at ICLEI/LGMA Local Authorities Constituency. Globally cities are developing Plans for Action due to COVID-19 to support all people, of every age, leaving no one behind.

### Engaging in SDGs Learning & Training Sessions

#### SDGs Learning, Training & Practice at virtual HLPF 2020

The Division for SDGs at the UNDESA and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) organised the 2020 edition of the SDGs Learning, Training & Practice - a series of skill building and educational workshops for strengthening capacity and promoting partnerships for the SDGs. EEG had the pleasure of attending several enlightening sessions in parallel to the HLPF formal meetings.

All Sessions in the link please click



## 7<sup>th</sup> July Building Back Better Together to Advance the 2030 Agenda

The 1<sup>st</sup> session of the SDG learning and training programme was jointly hosted by UNDESA and UNITAR on 7<sup>th</sup> June. This session focused on various techniques and methods to be adopted by educational systems worldwide in order to incorporate SDG learning in a post pandemic world. The special side event explored ways in which partnerships assist developing countries in addressing the COVID-19 aftermath and promote synergies between key sectors, including the scientific and technological community and the private sector. The virtual event included an in-depth presentation on the current situation and the impacts of the

pandemic on educational outcomes presented by the Keynote speaker followed by a panel discussion on the topic "The role of Education in building back better in the Decade of Action for Delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals". The insightful discussion consisted of an all-women panel of experts and was moderated by the Chief of Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, UNDESA.

The session concluded by encouraging the audience and members of the international community to participate in the upcoming training sessions as the world progresses towards the SDGs amid the pandemic.

## 9<sup>th</sup> July (Session 5)

The 5<sup>th</sup> session conducted on the 9<sup>th</sup> July was based on Global Environmental Commons that looked into co-designing solutions to integrate SDGs into policies and practices through education and capacity development.

The speakers from diverse backgrounds and countries addressed questions on how to promote an integrative and systemic approach to give SDGs the highest probability of success in the years to come, how to provide life-long learning opportunities that have a heavy emphasis on Environmental and Sustainable Literacy and how to strengthen the collective resilience in a river basin by taking into consideration social, environmental and economic aspects.

## 10<sup>th</sup> July (Session 7)

The 7<sup>th</sup> session focused on sustainable and just economies with transparency and clarity in national as well as global decision making. The speakers came from different UN bodies and Women Organisations, they brought into light the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis and enabling factors for the SDGs implementation by working on the interlinkages towards inclusive transformation. The speakers drew attention to the opportunities that we have in transitioning to sustainable and just economies without losing the sight of need to implement 2030 agenda commitments. The key areas of discussion were job creation, social justice, net employment gains, and need for integrated approaches and policy coherence.

## 13<sup>th</sup> July (Session 9)

The last session that EEG attended was on 13<sup>th</sup> July, it was session 9 titled 'Teaching, Learning and Integrating the SDGs at universities and beyond'. It focused on reformulating and strengthening SDG education at universities, and how the acquired knowledge can be used to empower the international community. Featuring an eminent group of panellists representing various international organisations, the webinar discussed the key challenges in incorporating SDG training in universities, which include motivating students, implementing practical learning for SDGs, dynamic solutions for an ever-evolving status quo, incorporating innovation culture, interdisciplinary curricula, and realistically involving stakeholders for international cooperation. With SDG 4 of the 2030 Agenda focused on ensuring "inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all," the discussion also considered ideas such as the lack of one common recipe, and provided methods to create resources, identify and develop innovative methods, and build capacities not only for teaching sustainable development, but also for enabling individuals and groups to take an active role in the implementation of the SDGs.



## Engaging with UNEP

**1) Public Procurement** EEG attended on 29<sup>th</sup> June, a webinar dedicated to the Sustainable Public Procurement programme of the One Planet Network. This webinar offered the opportunity to learn more about the partners of this programme, their strategic work areas, and activities. The most important discussion points of the webinar were overview of the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) programme, presenting the SDG 12.7.1 reporting methodology and next steps, and sustainable food procurement in Africa. The SDG 12.7.1 relates to the number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans. It covers several sub-themes assessing the existence of SPP policies and/or SPP legislation; the efforts and means dedicated by countries towards the implementation of SPP policies (process indicators); the outputs developed through these policies (output indicators) and results achieved by these policies (outcome indicators). As per the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) work on SPP in Africa, there was a focus on inclusive public procurement, school feeding programmes and home-ground school feeding (HGFS).

**2) UNEA - 5 Agenda** On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, EEG attended the Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting virtually that discussed the preparations for UNEA-5 and the implementation of "Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly". Two important documents were discussed at the beginning of this meeting and EEG has been contributing extensively in the discussions and documents, specifically related to converging elements of consensus and enhancing cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the Multilateral Environment Agreements/Conference of the Parties (MEAs/COPs). The Secretariat provided an overview on the preparations for the UNEA-5 to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also a platform to highlight why the environmental dimension of sustainable development plays a critical role both in better understanding and addressing the COVID-19 crisis and in identifying approaches to ensure that rebuilding a post-pandemic world contributes to overall sustainable development.

**3) Webinar on Sustainable Living** On 7<sup>th</sup> July, EEG attended a webinar organised by One Planet Network that shared empowering messages for people to live better and lighter. In our current scenario marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to consider the impacts of cities and neighbourhoods on climate change and resources consumption. UNEP has developed in this regard, a set of guidelines that can help cities implement an integrated sustainable neighbourhood design around three core principles of Design, Integration and Local Context. An interesting feature of the webinar was the presentation of local examples (both old and new) that promoted integrated sustainable designs. For example, speakers offered grassroots evidence from Stockholm, Nepal, China, and the Philippines. The speakers also focused on a number of practical and innovative concepts that could be mimicked easily like, building strategies for tropical climate, strengthening synergies and interconnections between sub-systems of a city, scaling up traditional designs, eco-city planning and implementation, and eco-community designs.

**4) Civil Society Deliberations on UNGA Decision** On 16<sup>th</sup> July, as a precursor to the informal consultation on UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) resolution 73/333, EEG attended a preparatory consultation for civil society members for the formulation of its statements to the final meeting.

Attending members were also divided into breakout groups where they discussed and reported on the following questions:

- Why a GPE (Global Partnership for Education) is needed now (beyond political declaration);
- What needs to be in the Declaration?
- What are the next steps in the process - capacity building, stakeholder engagement, funding etc.?

**5) The 1<sup>st</sup> informal participatory meeting for UNEA decision 73/333** EEG had the opportunity to participate and offer its recommendations at the first informal substantive consultation meeting at the UN General Assembly held from 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July. During the meeting, Member states, organisations and stakeholders put forth their views on the consideration of the outline document that will serve as the basis of UNEA-5. While a few countries suggested certain changes to the outline document, the majority were satisfied. Members were also in general agreement that meeting global environmental challenges amidst the pandemic required collective action. This broad consensus was followed up by a strong call for an action-based political declaration for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Members also called to mainstream environmental policy across the board, as a means to strengthen the implementation of environmental law. Finally, EEG would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent organisation of these meetings, and looks forward to future meetings on the issue and to UNEA 5 meetings.

## Engaging with GISD

**1)** On 16<sup>th</sup> July, EEG participated in an engaging follow-up meeting to the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond. This was organised by the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, where EEG Chairperson is an active member of the Alliance and continues to play a vital role in the growth of the Alliance by injecting the working groups with dynamic individuals. The chairs of the respective Discussion Group no. 3 (Global liquidity and Financial stability), 4 (Debt and COVID-19) & 5 (Private Sector Creditor Engagement) presented the objectives and priorities of their groups respectively. In addition to the critical exchange of views, 'Option papers' as a basis to start substantive deliberations were also introduced in this meeting. The group members shared their perspectives and provided strong suggestions for the implementation process.

**2)** EEG also attended the Discussion Group meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July that focused on deals for the GISD. The representatives of Ground Up Project presented the Impact Rescue Facility (IRF), designed to direct funds quickly to fund managers in emerging markets with already approved relationships with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and diversified portfolio by well-qualified professional investors. It is seeking up to \$1 billion in investment in tranches of \$50 million, and can deploy the funds within 2-3 weeks of investment with minimum investment size of \$2 million. A Group presented a debt instrument that is intended to fund intermediaries to provide capital for SMEs trying to rebuild from the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on women in the informal sector in the Asia-Pacific region. The sectoral themes are agriculture, financial inclusion, and SME financing, and it seeks to raise \$100 million to be issued in Q1/Q2 2021. Another Group presented an infrastructure fund for emerging markets. It has a relative value focus in emerging markets for greater impact and return and fills a gap in the market between commercial bank lending and long-term structural finance from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs). The fund will focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and data infrastructure and the fund size is \$250 million.



## Engaging with GUD

1) The Global Urban Development (GUD) organised on 1<sup>st</sup> July, the first meeting of a new working group virtually, which was coordinated by EEG Chairperson and Faculty of Global Policy & Development at Singularity University. The members shared their great ideas and potential actions to generate globally scalable projects around residential and mixed-use development using 3-D printing and other advanced construction technologies; on the extensive use of recycled concrete and other sustainable and recycled building materials; on equitable, sustainable, and inclusive community design, planning, development, infrastructure, and services; on innovative sources and methods of public and private financing; on job creation, business linkages, and income growth; on homeownership and cooperative housing; and on other closely related economic, social, and environmental challenges and opportunities.

3) On 29<sup>th</sup> July a follow up meeting on the discussions of the 1<sup>st</sup> July was held to determine the clear vision and strategy for promoting climate-resilient affordable housing and sustainable community development.

2) On 28<sup>th</sup> July, GUD in partnership with EEG organised the 1<sup>st</sup> virtual Urban Thinkers Campuses (UTC). The virtual meeting of the members deliberated on the Sustainable Innovation Zones and COVID-19 Resilient Recovery Strategies. The EEG Chairperson, who is a board member of GUD gave a strong presentation to share her suggestions on new GUD Housing Working Group and potential plans for the UAE and the Gulf Region. She stressed on the key issues of COVID-19 and global poverty, how to mitigate the impacts and build back better, and construction industry and its impact on economy. She briefly highlighted the severity of the impacts influenced by pre-pandemic SDG progress through 2019. The other inspiring members of the group also talked about Panama City Sustainable Innovation Zone (ACTA), London Sustainable Innovation Community, GUD's post coronavirus strategic perspective, Circular Economy for Cultural Heritage (CLIC) and Porto Alegre Sustainable Innovation Zone (ZISPOA).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> July Future of the Environment Post-COVID

EEG Chairperson attended the webinar organised by Emirates Society that featured Her Highness Sheikha Shamma Bint Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan the President and CEO of the Alliances for Global Sustainability; Britain's Minister of State for the Pacific, International Environment, Climate and Forest and Animal Welfare; and Director General of the Zoological Society of London & Britain's former Ambassador to the UAE. The core theme of the webinar was to recover from the virus and revive shattered economies. It centralised the discussion on how to achieve a more sustainable way of life post-COVID. The speakers shared their expertise on recycling ventures, renewable energy projects, smart city developments, and animal as well as habitat conservation around the globe.

## 7<sup>th</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> International Virtual Event of BMR

EEG Chairperson attended the Bureau of Middle East Recycling (BMR)'s dynamic platform, wherein the participants shared knowledge and experiences during the unprecedented time of the pandemic. BMR, a voice of the Middle East Recycling industry on an international scale for more than a decade, has organised 8 successful recycling conferences in the Middle East. They have taken a step further into the future to organise the 1<sup>st</sup> digital conference for the recycling fraternity. This virtual recycling conference had more than 20 booths from across the globe and facilitated engagements with finest recyclers, processors,

traders, agents, recycling machine producers, service providers, recycling media & different associations from all over the world. The esteemed speakers from UK, UAE, Lebanon, Belgium, USA, India, Saudi Arabia, Germany and South Africa led insightful and engaging discussions. In the context of UAE's alternative energy supply opportunities, the Executive Vice President of Emirates Global Aluminium talked about Dubai Solar and Abu Dhabi Nuclear projects.

For more details please click



## 7<sup>th</sup> July The Free Zone Edition of Public Private Connect

EEG attended the 4<sup>th</sup> webinar organised by Dubai FDI under its 'Public-Private Connect Programme 2020' series that aims to foster public-private engagement and update the local, regional and global private sector to strengthen Dubai and the UAE as a business-friendly destination that enables sustainable growth. The CEO of Corporate Strategic Affairs - Department of Economic Development - Government of Dubai, talked about the government stimulus and its impact on Dubai-based Business. The panel of Executive Chairman and CEO - DMCC, Managing Director Dubai Internet City and Dubai Outsource City, Chief Executive of Mohammed Bin Rashid Aerospace Hub - Dubai South and COO Parks & Zones DP World UAE Region discussed initiatives

and incentives designed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on investors.

The Dubai Free Zones Council announced a comprehensive economic stimulus package and member free zones rolled out specific initiatives to reduce business costs and enhance financial liquidity for companies, in line with the directives of H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai to ensure business continuity and reduce the economic impact of COVID-19.

For more details please click



## 8<sup>th</sup> July Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus

EEG attended the concluding event of a webinar series on the WEF Nexus organised by UNEP, Africa Office/Energy Unit, and Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The webinar focused on human well-being, poverty alleviation, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key takeaway message was the involvement of the communities, private sectors and institutions by linking social and environmental aspects with economic business model. The panelists also stressed that digitalisation and the use of Artificial Intelligence can help solve problems effectively in data collection, analysis and monitoring. The world also needs to realise that there are consequences of inaction too, therefore political will and visionary businesses are strong drivers for sustainability and resilience.



## 15<sup>th</sup> July EEG Chairperson in WiRE and WICE Webinar

EEG Chairperson was invited as a speaker in a webinar and signing ceremony of CEBC's Women in Clean Energy (WICE) and Canada's Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE). H.E. the Ambassador of Canada to the UAE gave an inspiring opening remarks on 'Green Recovery, Energy Transition and Gender Diversity', following which the passionate women leaders gave presentations on their contribution in the clean energy sector in the MENA Region and Canada. EEG Chairperson gave a research-based presentation on the

'Role of Local & International Community in Achieving Gender Diversity in the Energy Sector', shedding light on the current situation of gender diversity and global employment in the renewable energy sector. She concluded that in order to achieve gender equity in the energy sector and establish smart business strategies, we need to focus on the (3Es): Equal opportunity, Equal pay and Equal leadership. This requires strong concerted commitment from governments, industry and other energy stakeholders.

## 21<sup>st</sup> July Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Smart Technologies

EEG Chairperson attended on 21<sup>st</sup> July, the 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar under the series entitled 'Energy Efficiency: A key driver for clean energy transition' by EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, supported by Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC). Due to the specific demand for heating and cooling, buildings constitute a large percentage of the overall energy consumption in the Gulf Region and in Europe. The webinar addressed how the GCC countries are embarking on a clean energy transition for sustainable, efficient and cost effective methods to find solutions to the existing challenges of low energy efficiency, fuel subsidies and high CO2 emissions. It also discussed the legislative framework of EU that includes Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive to achieve a highly energy efficient and

decarbonised building stock by 2050, create a stable environment for investment decisions and, enable consumers and businesses to make more informed choices to save energy and money. The discussions also addressed key questions on opportunities and challenges that exist for energy efficiency at local and regional levels; most suitable policies and regulations for energy efficiency actions/projects; drivers for investment and its financing in energy efficiency; successful business models to accelerate the introduction of energy efficiency technologies and measures; role of SMEs and ESCOs; and key recommendations to promote collaboration between the EU and the GCC stakeholders.

Recording & presentations please click



## 22<sup>nd</sup> July Online Dialogue on Better Recovery by UNDESA and HLAB

EEG Chairperson joined the online dialogue organised by UN DESA and the United Nations High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs (HLAB), which commemorated the launch of a compilation of essays by HLAB members on 'Recover Better: Economic and Social Challenges and Opportunities'. The event addressed three key questions, Are we in a recession? What should countries do to recover better? And Is a green recovery possible? The insights in the compilation could help to accelerate action in attaining the SDGs.

Watch the event please click



As a follow-up, UN DESA will organise a series of policy dialogue among board members, contributing authors and prominent thinkers that will further inform COVID-19 responses so that countries can build back better and avoid returning to a pre-pandemic pathway, where progress towards important objectives was not rapid enough, or was happening at the cost of significant reversals on others. Taken together, these policy dialogues will enhance the understanding of key underlying trends that must be managed as we design and implement policies for the pandemic response and recovery in the framework of the SDGs.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> July Launch of IUCN Global Nature-based Solutions Standard

EEG attended the High-level launch event organised by IUCN for official release of Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The key stakeholders from government and civil society presented their insights into IUCN's vision for NbS, which was followed by a high-level panel discussion with representatives from across regions and sectors. The opportunities and actions to be taken in the context of climate and biodiversity crises, as well as the green recovery post-COVID were discussed as key steps towards a just transition to a sustainable future. After two-year consultation and development process involving over 800 experts, practitioners and policy makers from over 100 countries, the NbS Standard is the first-ever tool that provides a system to facilitate and support the development of solutions that benefit human well-being and biodiversity simultaneously. It offers great potential to address our societal challenges sustainably and effectively, and it is also a global call for action to mark the start of a series of NbS events in the run up to the IUCN Congress in January 2021. It further aims to help governments, NGOs and businesses to design, invest and scale-up action to address climate change as well as other related crises including human health, food and water security, reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss, and disaster risk reduction.

Full Report Please click

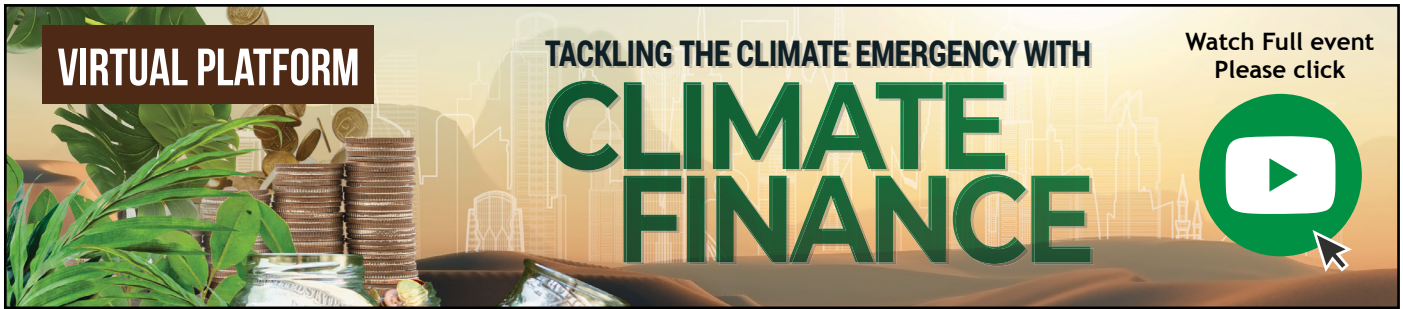


Watch the official launch please click



Watch the High-level panel discussion please click

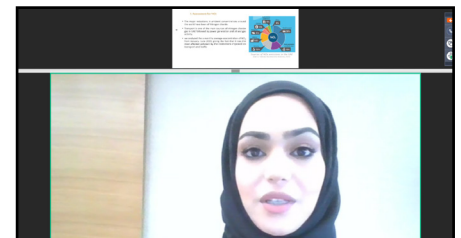
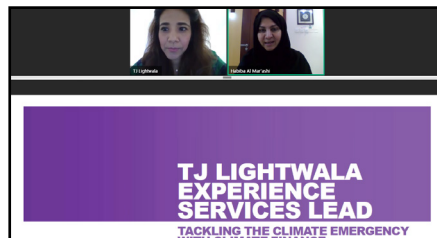
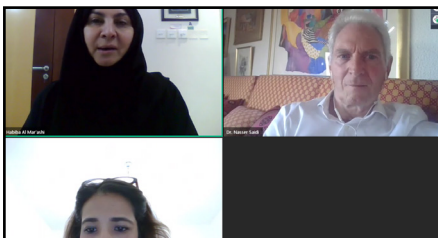




## 28<sup>th</sup> July EEG's Virtual Panel Discussion on Climate Finance

EEG organised its 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion for the year virtually under the theme “Tackling the Climate Emergency with Climate Finance” in association with Arabia CSR Network, Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) and Swiss Business Council (SBC). The distinguished guest speakers were Chairman of CEBC and President of Nasser Saidi & Associates; Managing Director Lead for Experience Services MENA Accenture; and Acting Head of Air Quality Management Section, MOCCA. The panelists gave insightful presentations to emphasise on the urgent need for increasing government and private spending on crucial sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and climate change. It also opened dialogue about the financial opportunities in the UAE that can be diverted towards combating climate change.

EEG Chairperson moderated the session and set the tone for the panel discussion by highlighting the intervention of key investments to build a resilience mechanism against pandemics and climate change. Responding to climate change presents challenges for the oil producing and water stressed countries of the MENA Region, but there are also opportunities to create new paths towards more inclusive and effective development. CEBC Chairman gave deep insights on why GCC countries should develop PAN-Arab model for clean energy technology and climate change mitigation as a part of their foreign aid. Regarding changes in air pollution across the UAE during the COVID-19 outbreak, Acting Head of Air Quality Management Section MOCCA talked about 26 stations across the country that assessed the changes in the ambient concentrations of the pollutants between January to June 2020. Overall an average of 45% reduction in NO<sub>2</sub> (Nitrogen Dioxide) concentration was observed. From a corporate perspective, Accenture is expanding its environmental work streams by putting in place Carbon Strategy and Portfolio Management, Green IT, Eco Innovation, 360 Supplier Relationship among many others. Accenture is on road to achieve 100% Renewable Energy by 2023 and secure its position as a climate leader.



## Recycle.Reforest.Repeat (3R)

EEG is happy to announce the remarkable contribution of 145 participants in its “Recycle. Reforest. Repeat” project that was held from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The families, schools and companies collected 78,862 kg papers. This has resulted in the reduction of 305 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, energy saving of 1,770 Million BTU, landfill saving of 249 m<sup>3</sup> and conservation of 1,341 trees. Total of 109 trees will be planted by the participants under their name to mark their noble efforts on 20.12.20.

## Educational News

### EEG Student Members Winning Princess Diana Award

EEG congratulates its Student Members, Mishal Faraz, Mir Faraz and Nehan Naseem Ali for being the youngest recipients in the UAE of the prestigious Princess Diana Award. Mishal and Mir, the two siblings have received awards for their incredible civic and environmental work. Nehan Naseem Ali has received the highest accolade a young person can achieve for social actions and humanitarian efforts. We are immensely proud of our passionate eco-warriors for their green achievements with such a prestigious recognition. Established in the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Award is given out by the charity of the same name and has the support of both her sons, The Duke of Cambridge and The Duke of Sussex. Our student members are going above and beyond in their daily life to create and sustain positive change. They are setting examples for all the aspiring, young leaders of tomorrow. Keep up the excellent work!



## Call for Application at UN Resident Coordinator Office, UAE

EEG brings you an exciting opportunity! The UN Resident Coordinator Office in the UAE is looking for a dynamic candidate for the position of Associate Development Coordinator Officer - Data Management & Results Monitoring/Reporting, Abu Dhabi. The closing date for applications is **31<sup>st</sup> August 2020** (midnight NY time). We encourage

the qualified and skilled Emirati nationals to grab this opportunity. Follow the link to know about job description and eligibility criteria

**Hurry and Apply. All the best!**

For more details  
please click



## UN Sustainable Development Report and World Youth Report 2020 Launched

The United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 during the virtual High Level Political Forum on **7<sup>th</sup> July**. The report includes infographics to provide a high-level overview of the achievements, gaps and challenges for each Goal before the pandemic, along with insights into the impact of COVID-19.

Full Report  
Please click



It has been prepared by UN DESA's Statistics Division, with input from over 200 experts in more than 40 international agencies. The data and insights in the report plays an important role in informing the immediate response to COVID-19 and provides a progress summary for SDG targets with a 2020 deadline.

The 'World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda' was launched on **2<sup>nd</sup> July** to contribute to the understanding of how youth social entrepreneurship can support youth development and help accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. The report uses information boxes and case studies to illustrate the impact youth social entrepreneurship can have when entrepreneurial ecosystems are aligned with the needs, characteristics, constraints and ambitions of young people. The final chapter offers policy guidance to facilitate the development of enabling, responsive and sustainable national ecosystems for young social entrepreneurs.

Full Report  
Please click



## UNEP Faith for Earth Initiative

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) launched in July the "Faith 4 Earth" initiative and has appealed to leaders and members of Faith Based Organisations, in line with achieving the goals of its next Medium-Term Strategy set for the period 2022-25. The main goal of the initiative is to promote greater stakeholder engagement and encourage faith-based communities to participate in policy making and provide their perspectives on the environmental sustainability agenda.

UNEP will be inviting the Major Groups, Faith Based Organisations and other members, in recognition of their role as agents of change, in transitioning societies and communities towards a more sustainable and just future. The Faith-4-Earth Initiative also aims to bring the various stakeholders and discuss their contributions and concerns in a post-pandemic context. EEG is delighted to have been invited by UNEP to attend the session on UNEP's Medium Term Strategy and Transformation Strategy on **27<sup>th</sup> August 2020**.

UNEP NEWS

For more details  
please click



## GEO-LDN Competition to support Land Use Planning

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as the principle target of the Convention at COP12 (12<sup>th</sup> session of Conference of the Parties), in October 2015 to strategically place its three pillars of conservation, sustainable land management and restoration in the context of land use planning.

It is a unique approach that balances the expected loss of productive land with the recovery of already degraded areas. To address the mandate of how LDN can be incorporated into existing open source land use planning and trade-off analysis tools, the Group on Earth Observation Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) and the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) has launched an international technology competition. It is an open call to design software that can support more transparent and well-informed land use decisions at the local to national level across the globe.

UNCCD NEWS

For more details  
please click





**From 1<sup>st</sup> June, to 30<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Neighbourhood Recycling Project**



**OROC**  
 ONE ROOT,  
 ONE COMMUNI-TREE  
**PHASE 2**  
 20 Aug - 30 Nov 2020



**SUSTAINABILITY  
 A GLOBAL PUZZLE**  
 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*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 Welcomed 1 renewed academic member, 12 new student member & 20 renewed student members in the month of July 2020

#### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

Delhi Private School Dubai	Renewal		
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#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Amarnath Sreevalsan	New	Advait Vishwanath	Renewal
Ananya Sandeep	New	Afsa Tassnim	Renewal
Divraj Singh	New	Akshita Sushil Bhatia	Renewal
Felisha Enciletta	New	Amoghavarsha Bhat	Renewal
Gaurang Deka	New	Ananya Srivastava	Renewal
Madhav Krishna Seshadri Sumanth	New	Dhanvi Sayani	Renewal
Maryam Imran Akharware	New	Divyalakshmi VP	Renewal
Purna Sumesh	New	M.N. Vivekanandan	Renewal
Rahuk Ashok	New	Mohamed Zishan Riyad	Renewal
Raghav Krishna Seshadri Sumanth	New	Ridham Vora	Renewal
Richa Vaishnavi Balaji	New	Sai Vaishnavi Balaji	Renewal
Rohan Ashok	New	Sana Feroz	Renewal
Aaditya Gandhi	Renewal	Satyam Sharma	Renewal
Aadharsh Ram Saravanane	Renewal	Shrishti Ramdas	Renewal
Abhitha Rajesh	Renewal	Tejus Arukat	Renewal
Abhijith Biju	Renewal	Trisha Sayani	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 July amidst ongoing COVID19- pandemic. Adhering to the restrictions of social distancing and taking care of all the preventive measures, EEG has received recyclable materials from 384 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



66,360 kg  
Paper



133 kg  
Aluminium Cans



1,267 kg  
Glass Bottles



20 pcs  
Toners



4,047 kg  
Plastic



747 pcs  
Mobile Phones

#### Environmental savings for the month



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



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



1,758 Million BTU  
of energy



1,741 trees



2,612 gallons  
of gasoline

