

EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



December 2020
Issue 12



Upcoming Events

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Villa No. JMR. 68, Jumeirah 1, Between old Dubai Zoo & Beach Centre.
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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

On behalf of the Emirates Environmental Group, I wish you all a very Happy 49th UAE National Day! This year, I believe the UAE National Day gives us dual reasons to celebrate. The bravery and dedication of Emirati martyrs, and the fight of our leaders against COVID-19. In both, we have stood strong in our foundation to never back down.

We have all survived the unprecedented times together as the world entered 2020 with the outbreak of COVID-19. With one more month left to bid this year a goodbye, Emirates Environmental Group stands proud and content with the unique successes that it has achieved in its various campaigns and programmes throughout the year.

We owe it all to our members, partners and supporters, who have consistently believed in our vision of bringing the communities together with a sole purpose of creating a better environment and a sustainable future.

The momentum for climate action has accelerated recently, but the progress in achieving the global goals has been rather disappointing. The world is now looking forward to the year 2021 with great hopes to build back better from the impacts of the pandemic. It is expected to be a year of transition to stronger climate action.

There are many lessons learned from the pandemic, especially environmental protection and human security. The inter-dependency has been an eye-opener to global and national leaders. The crisis has therefore, on various platforms reiterated that good decision-making must be in accordance with the scientific data and practical approach.

The pandemic has given us an opportunity to make a fresh start and give up on the selfish ways that we (the humans) thrived on for development and economic growth.

The recovery plans, which are under consideration and the policy options that are under deliberations will be impactful only if we all join in the efforts, individually as well as collectively. We have to take COVID-19 as an opportunity to keep 'sustainability' as a central point in every activity.

This month's newsletter issue will walk you through the amazing chapter of EEG's 2020 journey that we concluded victoriously with the participation and support of responsible individuals and organisations. In the month of November, we organised the annual Can Collection Drive which was open to everyone in the country.

We also conducted 20th cycle of Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition as a virtual event, followed by a hybrid event of the Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition to enable the students from different Arab Countries to join and to express their passion for environment and voice their concerns facing their future. We also concluded the 2nd phase of our popular programme "One Root. One Communitree". EEG was able to witness the astounding enthusiasm and devotion from the student community, the academia and the corporate world towards a more just and sustainable world.

I was also delighted to join the new podcast series and share the inspiring story of EEG since its inception in 1991. We have indeed come far and established ourselves as one of a kind, our zeal and perseverance continues. I also thank the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for inviting EEG to attend the virtual event of UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020. It was truly a motivating platform for us to know the great work that the Secretariat and the respective focal points have done this year, in spite of the pandemic crisis read more on (page no.5).

In the last month of 2020, we have our concluding and major campaigns, the "Clean Up UAE" Campaign, the "Green December" and "For Our Emirates We Plant". I am eagerly waiting to meet you all in these wonderful outdoor programmes and enjoy the excellent weather. Let us all in unity give back to our environment and community the care that it deserves.

I encourage our ardent readers to read this full issue of our newsletter to find out more of such important engagements. We have a lot to share with you and we want to hear from you as well. Find out all about our upcoming and engaging campaigns on our website www.eeg-uae.org, and join us 'Together for a better Environment'!



Engaging with EGBC

1) EGBC Congress & Awards

EEG Chairperson, a co-Founder and the Board Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) attended the 9th Annual Congress that was organised on 17th & 18th November. The theme of the congress this year was ‘Building a Sustainable Future in Uncertain Times’ under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. EEG Chairperson moderated the 1st panel discussion titled “From crisis to recovery: market overview for the green building sector”, wherein the speakers were from Clean Energy Business Council, Global Urban Development, World Green Building Council and Maijd Al Futtaim. The event discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on the construction and building sector, and how to use the existing and potential opportunities to

build a sustainable and resilient future for the UAE. The international and regional speakers from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, KEO, World Economic Forum, International WELL Building Institute, Saint-Gobin, WHO- Regional Office of Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), Knauf, Masdar, AESG, Dubai Health Authority and many such diverse disciplines shared insights from their respective expertise. The other areas of discussion included circular economy in the built environment, healthy buildings, innovations and solutions within the green building industry, resilient cities, carbon neutrality in high rise, turning climate commitments into action on projects, indoor environment quality and many more. The Congress on 18th November was concluded with 2020 MENA Green Building Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner.

2) Towards the Next 50 Years: A sustainable Development Plan

Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi on 30th November joined the virtual Tabreed webinar that invited the UAE’s prominent sustainability leaders to address the importance of embedding sustainability in the agenda of next 50 years. EEG Chairperson shared her view on global sustainability trends and said, “As we all prepare to rise from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are multiple opportunities for the construction sector around the world as well as in the UAE Region.”

To that she emphasised on using the available Deep Retrofit technology to reduce 50% of on-site energy use. She also suggested the need of creating blueprint of the UAE’s success to lead momentum to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. She shared

the key activities of EGBC such as, MENA Green Building Awards and Annual Congress that brings the public and private sectors for joint efforts towards sustainability. Education being one of the core pillars of the UAE’s plan for capacity building, the discussions also focused on the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in the educational curriculum. Further, talking about the UAE’s progress towards sustainability goals, Mrs. Habiba mentioned the 11 consultative meetings that were organised by over 1,000 ministers, senior federal and local government officials that put economic and environment models central to next 50 years’ agenda. The UAE Centennial Plan 2071 launched under the leadership of H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is yet another promising outlook for the country.

4th November CEBC Members Virtual Networking

EEG Chairperson attended the CEBC Members Virtual Networking event on 4th November. Bridging the gap of social distancing, the event was a great platform for the exchange of ideas and suggestions among the members of elaborate expertise. The event started with the achievements of the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) during the past few months and highlights of the current and progressing activities. Members were able to interact in the thematic networking breakout rooms which created rich discussions. EEG is proud to continue association with its sister organisation, the CEBC on this interesting platform.

7th November CAN Arab World

EEG Chairperson was invited for the inaugural day of the General Assembly of the Climate Action Network (CAN) of the Arab World on 7th November. This virtual dialogue between civil society and government representatives was organised under the slogan of “Moving to renewable energies in the Arab world is not an option, but a necessity” by the CAN Arab World, which was founded by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in 2016. It is the biggest NGO-network in the field of Climate Action in the MENA Region. In the opening session, CAN Executive Director shared what CAN International has been doing in bridging the national and regional efforts. The Assembly was attended by 50 member organisations and the respective representatives shared the updates of their national efforts against climate change. The members from Sudan, Lebanon and Yemen specifically talked about the challenge of food insecurity that they face as a result of multiple emergencies, including the COVID-19. Please click to read more, <http://www.climatenetwork.org/category/region/middle-east>

7th November The 24th Cycle of Can Collection Drive

The annual Can Collection Drive of EEG was successfully organised on 7th November under the challenging circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic. However, with all the safety measures in place, EEG was able to run the drive effectively at three sites, i.e. Al Mamzar Park, Al Barsha Pond Park and Zabeel Park in Dubai, while participants from other emirates deposited their collection directly at EEG’s office. The drive brought together more than 120 entities from all over the UAE, which included various hotels, government entities, corporations, academic institutions and families. A total of 3,500 kg of Aluminium Cans were collected for recycling, contributing in saving 84.90 m³ of landfill space, mitigating 52.5 MT CO₂ emissions and energy saving of 796.5 million BTU. The group urges all sectors of society to continue depositing aluminum cans for recycling and to help achieve the target set for this year, which is to collect 20,000 kg. EEG Chairperson said in appreciation of the good number of turnout of participants “The commitment and determination of the UAE society to contribute to the cause of sustainability was

seen not only through increasing in the number of participants over the years, but also through the significant number of entities that participated this year in spite of the pandemic”. EEG thanks the Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) for continuing its support as a co-sponsor, and Dubai Municipality and Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) for venue support and outreach. Several entities also joined the drive by providing logistical support, such as; Abela & Co, Lucky Group, McDonald’s UAE and Tristar Group, whereas the Gulf News and Al Murad Group played instrumental roles as media partners.

The drive supported several UN SDGs, i.e. 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, 13: Climate Action, 14: Life below Water, 15: Life on Land and 17: Partnerships for the Goals.



9th - 13th November *Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics*

9th - 13th November

EEG attended the 4th meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Expert Group (AHEG) from 9th to 13th November on Marine Litter and Microplastics that was convened online. This expert group on marine litter and microplastics was established at the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and at the 4th session of UNEA, the mandate of the expert group was extended.

The key focus of the AHEG-4 meeting was to discuss and agree on a Chair's Summary to inform the 5th meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) on how best to tackle marine litter and microplastics. The Chair's Summary that will be presented at UNEA-5 focused on two main aspects:

1. Review of the present situation
2. Potential national, regional and international response options

During the meeting, delegates also considered the Secretariat's efforts in strengthening the scientific and technological knowledge and enhance coordination and cooperation through a multi-stakeholder platform. A welcome move here was the establishment of a mapping process of existing instruments, measures, initiatives, and approaches on marine

litter, as well as their assessment on sources, pathways, and hazards. The meeting also witnessed expert discussions on the progress of addressing the problem, discussing the results of a stocktaking exercise of ongoing activities conducted by the Secretariat, as well as an inventory of available technical and financial resources available for ongoing work to address the scourge of marine plastics and microplastics. In their consideration of the Chair's Summary, delegates engaged in robust discussions on the need for a new global treaty.

It was interesting to see a number of representatives support a call for the document to signal to the Assembly that the time has come to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee to begin talks on a new treaty. In the end, the meeting agreed to the Chair's summary, which was hailed as a neutral and factual document, containing a non-exhaustive list of response options to marine litter and microplastics (which is the need of the hour). This was a wonderful meeting that tackled a number of pertinent issues related to marine litter and microplastics. We congratulate the UN Environment Programme Secretariat on their efforts to organise this meeting despite all the logistical and technical challenges.

12th November *Food Systems Approach to Climate Change*

12th November

The EEG Chairperson on 12th November joined the webinar titled 'Food Systems Approach to Climate Change - The NDCs we want' organised by the United Nations Environment Programme, World Wide Fund, the Alliance of Biodiversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food).

During the webinar, the recommendations were shared from the Report, enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Food Systems, recently published by WWF, UNEP, EAT and Climate Focus, which explains 16 specific food system-related mitigation and adaptation measures countries can take. The key discussions included

the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, and recommendations from the report titled 'Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions'. The webinar was part of a Series of webinars on Food Systems Approach in Practice promoted by the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme. Moderated by UNEP Climate Change Global Coordinator the esteemed speakers were Research Director from Climate Action, Alliance of Diversity International and CIAT; Vice President & Research Director, Project Drawdown; Global Policy Manager Food, WWF International; Deputy Director, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, IPES-Food; Adviser to the Climate Change Directorate of Costa Rica; and City Counselor, Deputy Mayor of Leuven, Belgium, in charge of climate, sustainability, agriculture and consumption.

15th November *Miswak Tree Planting*

15th November

EEG on 15th November in collaboration with its corporate member Dabur organised the Miswak Tree Planting. It was supported by the management of the Saih Al Salam Protected Area, wherein a total 20 saplings of Miswak tree were planted on the premises. This activity was conducted as part of "Together We Plant" project that EEG implements with its corporate members. This was a unique tree planting activity, due to the high importance of Miswak tree in the Arabic culture and traditions and same being one of the most-sought toothpaste brands of Dabur Company. EEG consistently looks forward to such value added initiatives from its members and supporters to roll them out for the benefit of the society and the general environment.

25th November *The Matrix Green Pill Podcast*

25th November

The Matrix PR Dubai on 25th November invited EEG Chairperson for its new podcast series titled 'The Matrix Green Pill'. She narrated EEG's inspiring journey since its inception in 1991 and the progress it has made in raising awareness and building actions on climate change, environmental protection, and responsible waste management in the UAE and beyond.

She shed light on the challenges that EEG faced in gaining the necessary trust and support from local and federal governmental agencies during its budding phase. The Matrix PR Dubai also congratulated EEG for being the first environmental NGO in the world to be ISO 14001 certified and the only organisation of its kind in the UAE with accredited status to the United Nations Convention to Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The innovative educational programmes of EEG were also discussed; wherein the Chairperson talked about the active and passionate participation that it receives from students in different age groups. She touched on the Students workshops, the Interschool and Intercollege Environmental Public Speaking Competitions. She invited the listeners to the upcoming events of EEG in the month of December; the "Clean Up UAE" campaign, the "Green December" project and the "For Our Emirates We Plant" programme.

Click to listen to the podcast, <https://thematrixgreenpill.com/2020/11/24/episode-10/>



26th Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues

November EEG attended the virtual Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues on Plastics and Waste on **26th November**. This session was the first dialogue hosted by the Geneva Environment Network to build recommendations towards the High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance Dialogue in February 2021. Its aim was to outreach and create synergies by highlighting the efforts made by intergovernmental organisations and governments, businesses, the scientific community, civil society and individuals for coordinated actions. It further addressed the plastic crisis and supported the coordinated approaches that can lead to more efficient decision

making. The speakers were from United Nations Environment Programme; Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; Chemicals Control and Management Centre, Ghana; Global Affairs Section, Switzerland; Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway; and Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL).

The Dialogues are in collaboration with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat, the Center for International Environmental Law, the Global Governance Centre at the Graduate Institute, Norway, and Switzerland. <https://bit.ly/3liQSEe>

26th The Climate Dialogues 2020

November The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment invited EEG Chairperson to attend the various events of Climate Dialogues 2020 organised virtually by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The first event titled ‘Addressing Knowledge Gaps: Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation’ took place on **26th November**, it was based on climate change and its threat on biodiversity and ecosystems. The expert speakers in this session were from Nature Campaign and Adaptation and Loss and Damage Negotiations, Chilean Ministry of Environment, Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático Mexico (INECC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

The engaging conversation addressed the key question of how can forests and grasslands biodiversity and ecosystems be better integrated into adaptation solutions at the national level. They shared preliminary key findings that will be published in January 2021; examined challenges, lessons learned and opportunities; and explored

areas to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem planning into national plans and policies. On the same evening of **26th November**, ‘Global Gender Event: Recap on 2020 and way forward’ was also organised, it emphasised on the progress achieved from the implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) in 2020.

The Executive Secretary of UNFCCC in the opening remarks talked about the increasing women-led projects that are innovative, scalable and climate action oriented. The representatives from UNFCCC and various member states showcased the leadership role of the Secretariat in ensuring that gender equality is made central to the climate actions initiatives. They discussed about the regional workshops on gender integration into climate actions, wherein the Associate Programme Officer of Gender and Climate Change - UNFCCC presented the purpose, format and data from the workshops.

The workshops conducted by the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs) to advance the capacity and skills on climate action and gender inclusiveness was also one of the key part of the discussion. The focal points here shared briefs about their role, the challenges they faced and successes that they have achieved in 2020. Please click to know more, <https://unfccc.int/cd2020>

29th Celebrating UAE National Day with The Millennium School

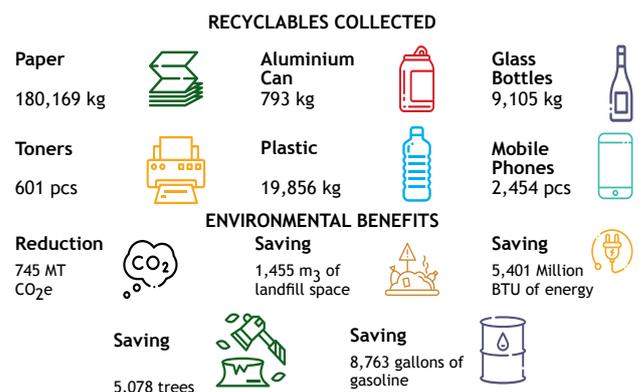
November EEG Chairperson was invited as a Chief Guest at the celebration of the 49th UAE National Day by The Millennium School on **29th November**. “Today we celebrate 49 years of unity between the seven emirates and appreciate the UAE’s great efforts in making this country a peaceful place for us all. Although, this year brought in a series of unfortunate, and unexpected events for us, and for the country; we gather to celebrate UAE’s immense capacity to endure these events and the nation’s positivity for a brighter future”, she said in her addressing note. Sharing the pride of unity and peace that are the legacy of Sheikh Zayed, she encouraged everyone to use the power of education and commit themselves to advance the UAE progress to an inclusive and sustainable country in the future. She warmly welcomed all the attendees to join EEG’s movement towards a better environment and raise the nation’s standards by contributing to the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed, which is for the young generation to be of service to the country.

One Root, One Communi-Tree (Phase 2)

One Root One Communi-Tree is yet another waste management project conducted by EEG in two phases during the year. OROC phase 2 commenced on **28th August** and concluded on the **30th November**. Targets for each sector were defined and communicated accordingly through the EEG website and other social media channels.

Emails were sent to the wide network of EEG members and regular follow up calls were conducted to encourage participation.

Upon meeting these pre-set targets, the respective participants will be given the privilege to plant trees under their name at the annual tree planting ceremony - “For Our Emirates We Plant” scheduled for 20.12.20.



Green December project starts Today

Green December is a student members exclusive waste management project that happens in the last month of every year. It is popularly known as ‘The Winter Recycling Project’ that aims to inspire its student members to help achieve the targets set for the collection of recyclables. Starting from 1st December till 20th December, the target for this year is 500 kg paper, 35kg plastic, 20kg aluminum cans, 50kg Glass, 50 mobile phones, and 50 toner cartridges. Students have the freedom to select any one or all of the mentioned recyclables and deposit at EEG’s office. All the student members are encouraged to join in this campaign and make a difference to the environment. Register in the link below, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG_LHOo6GDMox29ionxKV_fJ5JD5Nuh4g8FSZYe6bdI5aW5A/viewform

Educational News

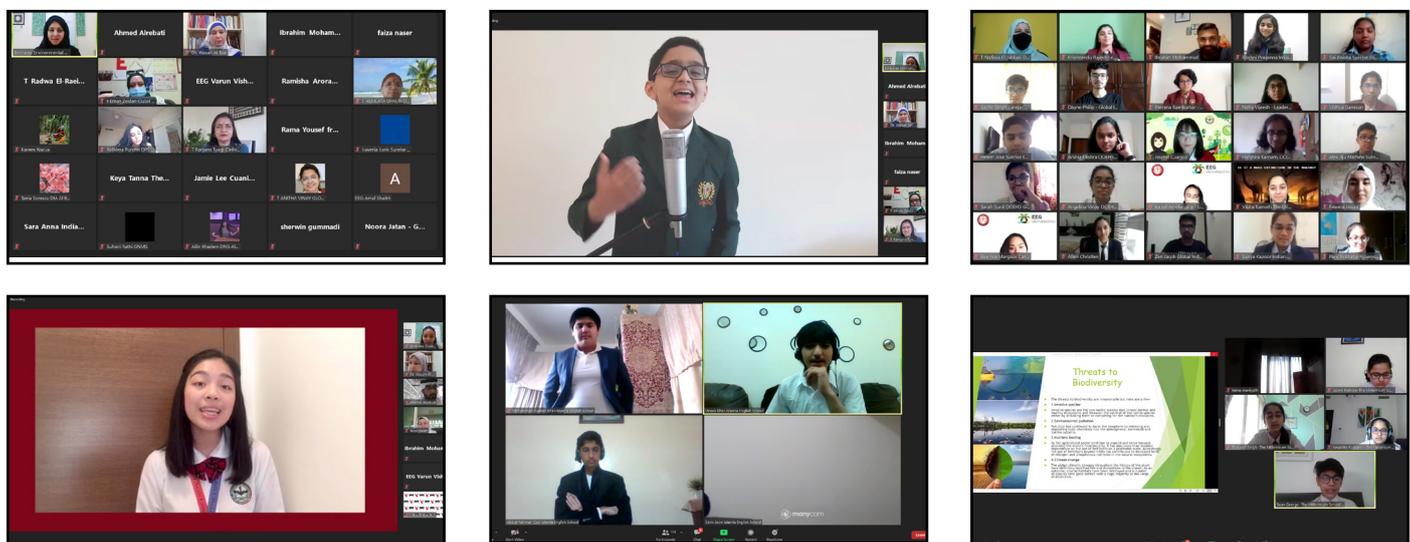
The 20th Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

This year, due to the challenges of COVID 19, EEG successfully converted its formerly physical event, the ISEPSC to a virtual event on 9th and 10th November. This unique online Public Speaking competition hosted 56 teams with more than 350 students and teachers, from different schools. Under the theme of ‘Assert Your Speech for Green Outreach’, EEG provided equal opportunities to students by welcoming the presentations in English and Arabic. Despite the platform being a virtual one, the students presented their speeches eloquently and they were marked on originality, content, time-keeping, vocational skills and presentation.

The topics of this year reflected several UN SD Goals; 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 17. EEG Chairperson thanked the Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) as the Strategic Educational Partner. The Group CEO of ENOC said, “Through our partnership with Emirates Environment Group, we aim to further strengthen awareness on the need to promote environmental conservation, more so in the new reality”.

The opening and closing ceremonies in both days witnessed five special performances from participating students, who shared some uplifting songs aligned with the themes of the 20th cycle of ISEPSC.

Topics for Day 1	
Biodiversity Restoration-Who’s Responsibility?	Our Own English High School - Sharjah
Sustainable Tourism is a Responsible Tourism’	Leaders Private School - Sharjah
Topics for Day 2	
The 6 th Mass Extinction, Is it Upon Us?	Dubai National School - Al Barsha
Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Time for Action	Delhi Private School - Sharjah
Overall Winners	
Overall Winner: Dubai National School - Al Barsha	
Overall 1 st Runner-up: Indian School - Al Ain	
Overall 2 nd Runner-up(tie): Our Own English High School - Sharjah	
Overall 2 nd Runner up(tie): The Millennium School - Dubai	



The 20th Annual Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

EEG held its 20th Annual ICEPSC on 23rd and 24th November with Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) as a Strategic Educational Partner. The event was hosted in the Knowledge Park Dubai graciously hosted by the Dubai International Academic City. For the first time in history of this two decade programme, EEG organised this 2-day programme as a hybrid event, wherein the 40 teams from diverse academic disciplines and universities across the MENA Region participated either virtually or physically at the venue amid COVID-19.

This traditional Pan-Arab competition hosted students from State of Palestine, Sultanate of Oman, Hashemite Royal Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Sudan. The diversity in the teams from the UAE included teams from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and RAK. It was a bilingual competition with teams choosing to present either in Arabic or English, and jury consisting of sustainability experts from both public and private sector.

Under the theme, "Assert your speech for green outreach," the teams were given a unique opportunity to express their point of view and suggest solutions on four carefully selected sustainability topics. The topics aligned well with several of the UN SDG's. EEG Chairperson expressed her delight in witnessing the performances of the students and congratulated them and the academic institutions for their commitment and perseverance. The winners of the 20th Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition were:

Topics for Day 1	
Sustainable Tourism is a Responsible Tourism	Winner: American University of Sharjah
The 6 th Mass Extinction - Is It Upon Us?	Winner: Zayed University - Dubai
Topics for Day 2	
Resource Efficiency and Climate Change - Actions Required	Winner: Herriot Watt University
Biodiversity Restoration - Who's Responsibility?	Winner: RAK Medical and Health Sciences University
Overall Winners	
Overall Winner:- Herriot Watt University	
Overall 1 st Runner-up: Westford University College	
Overall 2 nd Runner-up: RAK Medical And Health Sciences University	

Local News

UAE in G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers

The Minister of State for Financial Affairs, UAE participated in the G20 meeting that was held on 20th November virtually. The G20 members discussed the latest developments related to the financial recovery plans post COVID-19 pandemic. The UAE Minister shared the approach towards resilient recovery and explained the crucial role that infrastructure finance and investments can play towards restoring sustainable global economic growth. He said, "We also believe that our joint path of recovery will require embracing new financing methods to build resilient infrastructure, while also working with the private sector on new investment models to accelerate the development process." Earlier on 13th November on the occasion of the 7th meeting of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from G20 countries. The ministers and representatives from international and regional organisations discussed the latest economic developments; as well as developments related to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Visit the link for more details



AED 6.6 Billion in Environmental and Sustainability Projects

Dubai will be directing AED 6.6 billion in environmental and sustainability projects, which includes Dubai Centre for Waste Processing plant in the Al Warsan area. This will be one of the largest plants in the world with waste processing capacity of 5,666 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day and 1.9 million tonnes of municipal solid waste per year, as per Dubai Municipality. Phase one of the project will be completed in 2023 and the entire project will be completed in 2024.

"The UAE is committed to implementing innovative projects that optimise the use of resources and solve critical challenges as part of the country's strategy to ensure environmental sustainability", said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai after the project's review.

He further remarked that the environmental sustainability is a key element in the UAE's development model, either launched by government entities, independently or in partnership with the private sector.

Other projects include Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary development project to enhance the sanctuary's ecosystem and biodiversity; development of public beaches with an overall plan to promote a fitness culture and healthy lifestyle; first open garden on Al Mamzar Creek under the Green Dubai Project to add 8 million sq. metres of green space and expand green cover by planting mangrove trees in a 100-hectare area.

Visit the link for more details



Global Treaty to tackle Plastic Pollution

In the month of November, a working group of United Nations on marine litter and micro plastics gathered virtually to discuss the growing issues of plastic waste. As a result of which, more than two-thirds of UN members called for a new agreement to curb plastic pollution. This would be similar to the Paris Climate Agreement or the Montreal protocol for the prevention of ozone depletion.

Further, many NGOs highlighted the need for international agreement to tackle plastic waste. One model for such a treaty, drawn by the Environmental Investigations Agency (EIA), involves four key pillars: monitoring and reporting, to examine the extent of the problem; prevention; coordination; and technical and financial support.



The plastic pollution in oceans is predicted to triple by 2040 if the world doesn't take required measures to combat this issue. Therefore, a resolution calling for the world community to agree to a binding global agreement was adopted by International Union for the Conservation of Nature members, and 2 million people have already signed a petition.

<https://bit.ly/2VdJgZf>

Please click to read more,

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/16/us-and-uk-yet-to-show-support-for-global-treaty-to-tackle-plastic-pollution>

UN News



UNEA 5 President's Proposal to Member States

UNEP NEWS

The UNEA 5 President in his proposal to the Member States on political messages has reaffirmed the United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) mandate to play the leading global environmental authority role to further promote the sustainable development and global environment protection. As UNEP completes its 50 years in 2022, it is dedicated to contribute to its impactful celebration in February 2021, Nairobi. The President further expressed the concern of serious impacts that COVID-19 has added to the existing environmental challenges, specifically ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, threats to lives and livelihoods, climate change, waste management, etc.

Through multilateral forums on environment, such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on Paris Agreement, negotiations in the Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD) on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and negotiations on the Beyond 2020 Framework on Chemicals and Wastes in the context of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. "We will increase our efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and we do not need to wait until we resume our meeting in February 2022 before we act," said the UNEA 5 President.



UNCCD receives Global Award for work in Assessment of Land Degradation

UNCCD NEWS

EEG is an accredited member of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and congratulates the Convention for the 2020 SDG Custodian Agency award of the Group on Earth Observations Sustainable Development Goals Awards in the month of November 2020. UNCCD is the custodian agency for SDG indicator 15.3.1 that states, 'By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.' It regularly collects the information on the indicator through its national reporting and review process since 2018. Through this award, UNCCD has been recognised for its contribution in building national capacities and supporting the provision, and use of Earth Observations to monitor and assess the status of and changes in natural and built environments. This assessment is useful for national reporting to the UNCCD and reporting on SDG indicator 15.3.1, and also for tracking progress towards voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and for the development of plans of action to redress degradation, including through the conservation, sustainable management, rehabilitation and restoration of land resources.

For more details please click



Join The Clean Up UAE 2020

EEG’s vision is to bring together all the sectors of the UAE society, with the shared objective to be good stewards of the environment. To catalyse community pro-action to benefit the environment, EEG has developed a nationwide cleanup campaign, popularly known as the “Clean Up UAE”. The 19th edition of the campaign - Clean Up UAE 2020 will take place on the **12th December 2020** in Dubai at Seih Al Salam protected area.

EEG is delighted that the campaign will be held under the Patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, and in the presence of H.E. the Acting Undersecretary, and other government officials.



Through the years, this national campaign has acquired outstanding scope and stature as more and more entities and people joined the movement for a clean, green and sustainable UAE. EEG invites one and all to participate in this campaign by registering here, <https://forms.gle/nyct5dsWFwJMSarb8>

For Our Emirates We Plant

EEG’s annual tree planting ceremony - ‘For Our Emirates We Plant’ is a perfect sync between its waste management programmes and tree plantation. The champions of the year round recycling campaigns will be awarded with certificates of participation and saplings of indigenous trees that they will get the opportunity to plant in their names on **20.12.20**. If you care for nature, EEG will make your passion turn into action. So if you have missed the opportunity to participate in any of the action programmes, don’t miss this final activity of the year, you can adopt a tree as well. To know more about the campaign reach out to us on eeg@emirates.net.ae or better still call us on 04 3448622



EEG MEMBERS’ UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 1 renewed academic member, 5 new student members & 8 renewed student members in the month of November 2020

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP			
Our Own High School Al Warqaa Dubai	Renewal		
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP			
Karam Ayman Alrayyan	New	Kanish Chakraborty	Renewal
Dave Clausen Pais	New	Kriti Kamath	Renewal
Mohammed Wajahat Khan	New	Prabani Sodhi	Renewal
Prerana Ramkumar	New	Saanvi Kiran Rai	Renewal
Tehsin Shaik	New	Syed Haider Monsoor	Renewal
Aryan Mahadev Chammoli	Renewal	Thomson Abraham Thomas	Renewal
Avneet Kaur Sodhi	Renewal		



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

- » GHG Reductions 351 (MTCO₂)
- » Saving of 2,916 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 614 m³ of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 2,585 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 5,833 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 72,058 kg of Paper from 209 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 32% compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2020 so as to enable us to work towards our target. The Top Collectors were:	Bits Pilani	3,020	Deep Shah	1,905
	British International School, Ajman	2,230	Nia Tony	1,395
	Dubai National School	2,165	Madhav Manoj	1,000
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 3,974 kg of Aluminum Cans from 87 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 3029% compared to October 2020. The top collectors for the month were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	50	Trisha Nikhilkumar Sayani	55
			Madhav Manoj Vachali	50
	-	-	Prisha Thakkar & Varun Pabreja (Tie)	15
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 6,657 kg of Plastic from 120 participants during the month of November 2020 an increase of 4 % compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2020. The top collectors for the month were:	Dubai Women's College	148	Nia Tony	265
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	133	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	120
	American School of Dubai, Al Barsha	55	Nirja Kumar	85
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
EEG has collected 160 pcs of Toners from 9 participant during the month of November 2020, an increase of 62 % compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2020.				
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 2,704 kg of Glass Bottles from 41 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 35% compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2020. The Top collectors were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	710	Aashika Singh	130
	American University of Sharjah	135	Mana Al Suwaidi	90
	The Arbor School	30	Surabi Surendran	50
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 1,657 pcs of Mobile Phones from 13 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 188% compared to October 2020. We thank our participants and encourage them to collect more for the remaining months. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Shivani Adduri	390
			Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	60
			Aditya Manoj	34

