

EEG EDU NEWS

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EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



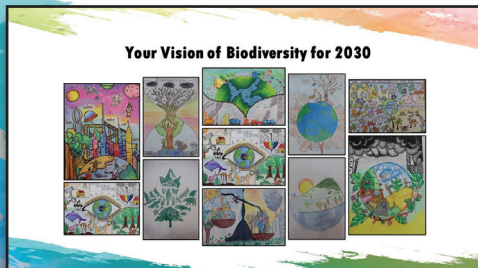
June 2021
Issue 06



Environmental Drawing
Competition

Environmental Drawing Competition

AWARDING CEREMONY



Upcoming Events

Recycling begins at
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Join The
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"Recycle. Reforest. Repeat."
Project
17th of June until 21st of July 2021

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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

As the global coronavirus pandemic enters continues its spread for the second year, governments are racing to vaccinate populations as novel variants emerge while people relax their vigilance around physical distancing, mask wearing, and other public health interventions. Prospects for school reopening, renewed travel, and herd immunity remain uncertain for this fall and beyond.

We can never forget the phrase “لا تشلون هم” a literal translation of “burden dropped or don't worry” said by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Those heartfelt phrases addressed by our leadership to the UAE community, including citizens and residents have reassured people and strengthened their sense of belonging to this country. It encouraged all members of the society to stand together against the pandemic by following all the necessary precautions.

At the EEG, we devote ourselves to environmental conservation and preservation, enabling us to inspire and encourage the society at large to behave responsibly and proactively to achieve a development that is sustainable. In the end, we are all responsible.

We juggled different meetings, webinars, campaigns and projects during the month of May and we are pleased to share with you that we conducted a very successful panel discussion on the topic of “From Text-book to Tech Savvy: Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on the Education System”.

We have wrapped up our very popular and well-known community action programme the ‘One Root, One Communi-Tree’. We organised and put forth a wonderful awarding ceremony for the notable educational programme, ‘Environmental Drawing Competition’. (Read more on pages 8).

The office has been like a busy beehive with all the back to back programmes and at the heart of every successful programme is a great team. I am pleased to share that the EEG family is growing as we welcomed 4 interns. Everyone has their own projects at hand and these interns are making real contributions to productivity and enhancing the EEG workforce as a whole.

We strive to give the interns a great learning and hands-on experience and an opportunity to work alongside employees in the office on specific programmes and projects which gives them the right perspective to start their career path.

Strong partnerships and collaborations are crucial to our work in programme deliverables, initiatives and campaigns so that our targets and our plans towards sustainability can be achieved. The month marked a memorable event as we organised an exclusive cleanup and tree planting of 67 saplings of native trees in Al Qudra in partnership with OUNASS in commemoration of launching of Pangaia, a brand that is very active on the sustainable front. (Read more on pages 6).

May, also saw EEG participate in many regional and international events, such as several UNEP, UNDP and UN DESA Engagements, IUCN member's virtual conference on Nature-based Recovery, dialogue between CSOs and land degradation neutrality fund, CEBC annual summit and more. Building partnerships are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mobilising the society and attending such important webinars enables us to grow our knowledge of best practices that are pertinent to the growth and development of the organisation.

As we move into the year, our cup is getting filled up very quickly. For the month of June, keep a look out for our ‘Recycle.Reforest.Repeat.’ and the ‘Neighbourhood Recycling Project’, and our next big event of the year, the ‘Emirates Recycling Awards’! We urge you to not miss out on these green opportunities. You give us your waste for recycling; we give you a tree to plant once targets are met.

I will conclude by saying that the Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship and with the act of coming together as one. Change happens when we work together – across borders and backgrounds – for the shared cause of a fair, just future for the people and planet.

Understanding and learning more on what goes on during these webinars under EEG news is strongly recommended as that will walk you through the journey that we are taking in achieving a sustainably sound planet.



UNEP Engagements

In the month of May, EEG participated in a several of UNEP engagements:

1) Meeting with Accredited NGO from West Asia Region

The UNEP West Asia regional facilitators for Major Group and Stakeholders (MGS) have called all UNEP West Asia accredited NGOs for the 4th regional virtual meeting which was held on 5th May to discuss the Regional Facilitators Activities Work plan for 2021 and seek advice from the members through comments and recommendations to communicate it further with UNEP West Asia office. The Major Group and Stakeholders (MGS) discussed the agenda regarding the capacity building training webinars and agreed on the followings: 1) Regional Facilitators will consult with UNEP West Asia region office to set up dates for the webinars and expert speakers; and 2) UNEP West Asia office will organise the webinar titled “UNEP MTS 2022-2025 and MGS priorities”. Along with the discussion, the MGS have discussed several issues for the work plan of 2021 such as online capacity building sessions, COP 26 engagements, social media involvements and the working groups.

2) CPR Subcommittee Meeting

The Committee of permanent representatives of the United Nations Environmental Programme held a virtual subcommittee meeting in which EEG attended on 6th May. The purpose of the meeting was to significantly discuss the consideration of the cycle of the term of office of the CPR Bureau and to give a brief on the preparations for World Environment Day 2021. The Secretariat then briefed Member States on preparations for the upcoming World Environment Day, scheduled to take place on 5th June 2021, hosted by Pakistan. This year's World Environment Day will focus on ecosystem restoration and will be held in conjunction with the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. With the tagline “Reimagine. Recreate. Restore”, the campaign will strive for people and organisations to look beyond the Day by joining #GenerationRestoration movement. The campaign is aimed at creating a movement that will last a decade and beyond, inspiring a global rallying cry for everyone - from governments and corporations to civil society groups to citizens at large - to do their part in healing our ailing planet.

3) UNEP at 50 Dialogue Series - Towards the Next 50: A Conversation with the Executive Director

EEG participated in the UNEP@50 Dialogue Series, where the Group participated in the first virtual discussion with UNEP Executive Director on 7th May. The guests engaged with the new book written by the Center's Director, The Untold Story of the World's Leading Environmental Institution: UNEP at Fifty. The author offered a detailed account of UNEP's origin and history and a vision for its future. She also countered the common criticism that UNEP was deficient by design, arguing that UNEP has in fact delivered on much (though not all) of its mandate. Furthermore, the author showed that UNEP was able to resolve problems and launch important processes when it had financial and political support. Its failures and limitations came when the environment slipped as a priority, leadership faltered, and connectivity was challenged. She also envisioned a future UNEP that is the go-to institution for information on the state of the planet, a normative vision of global environmental governance, and support for domestic environmental agendas.

4) Global Partnership on Marine Litter Digital Platform

EEG virtually attended a workshop on the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) Digital Platform hosted by Marta Ottogalli of the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) on 17th May. The UNEP aims to make this platform a successful multi-stakeholder and open-source, connecting and informing various parties working to address the global problem of marine litter and plastic pollution. Every attendee was encouraged to participate and give suggestions regarding the GPML Digital Platform. Various stakeholders, including Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs), all parties involved in global or regional multilateral processes, scientific and technological communities, academics, private sector and foundations and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), have been consulted with in order to develop a user-friendly and easily accessible interface. The main concern highlighted in the workshop is the assurance of good quality data. Moreover, the relevancy of data for the respective stakeholders is in question.

5) NGO Major Group Meeting

EEG attended virtually the United Nations Environment Programme's Non-governmental Major Group meeting (NGO MG) on 18th May. Investing in protecting and restoring the natural ecosystems will help protect humanity from the costly - and deadly- impacts of future pandemics and climate change. In order to raise social awareness and establish a community that advocates sustainability, voluntary labour in various work plays a vital role. In addition, the role of newsletters and their value were highlighted. The participants agreed on the concept of creating a newsletter with the latest environmental news and initiatives, in collaboration with all NGOs to stimulate environmental awareness and for the public to take choices that benefit the Earth, rather than harm it. In a nutshell, the meeting also shed light on future events such as webinars on Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity, Stockholm +49 event, and Consultations. Managed correctly and responsibly, nature can be central to eradicating poverty, creating livelihoods and driving long-term economic growth making our towns and cities livable, and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

6) 154th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

EEG joined the 154th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) virtually on 20th May. The Secretariat of UNEP outlined key observations, lessons learned and recommendations from the first part of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1) which was also held virtually on 22-23 February 2021. UNEA meets biennially to: set the global environmental agenda; provide overarching policy guidance and define policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges; undertake policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences; set the strategic guidance on the future direction of the UNEP; organise multi-stakeholder dialogues and foster partnerships to achieve environmental goals and resource mobilisation (Governing Council decision 27/2). Through its resolutions and calls to action, UNEA provides leadership and catalyses intergovernmental action on the environment and addresses emerging issues.

7) Pre Meeting for Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution - Informal Consultations addressing the mandates of UNEA 3/7 and 4/6 towards the 5th UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA- 5.2)

EEG attend on a virtual platform Pre Meeting for Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution - Informal Consultations addressing the mandates of UNEA 3/7 and 4/6 towards the 5th UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA- 5.2) on 27th May. The meeting emphasised the need for a global agreement build consensus on the threat of marine litter, i.a. set goals, address the whole life-cycle of plastics, achieve sustainable levels of production and consumption of plastics, support science-based approaches to measuring and monitoring progress, unlock funding and provide the framework and impetus for action and change at local, national, regional and international levels. UNEP will support Member States to convene the Ministerial Conference and to provide the best science to inform policy ahead of the reconvening of UNEA 5 in early 2022.



3rd May *ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2021 as Game Changer for Sustainable Recovery from COVID19*

EEG virtually attended the ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2021 on 3rd May. The ECOSOC Partnership Forum is organised annually to discuss the role of partnerships in driving sustainable development. As outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, partnerships are essential for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mobilising the related commitment, efforts, finance, technology and data. With less than ten years left to achieve the SDGs, the 2021 ECOSOC Partnership Forum provided policy space for Member States, non-state stakeholders and the UN development system to focus on key cross-cutting and interlinked issues that are central to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for discussing ways to mobilise multi-stakeholder partnerships to galvanise synergistic actions.

In line with the theme of the 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) which focuses on “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”, the 2021 ECOSOC Partnership Forum focused on the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving the SDGs following the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic, from a whole-of-a-society approach. The discussions examined how partnerships can help finance the SDGs and support recovery from COVID-19, including investing in sustainable infrastructure; and how to harness science, technology and innovation in support of sustainable development.

4th - 5th May *STI Forum*

EEG took part virtually in the 6th annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) held from 4 to 5 May 2021. As in previous years, the theme of the STI Forum will be closely aligned with that of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), to be held from 6-15 July 2021, but will have an exclusive focus on the role and contributions of science, technology and innovation. Accordingly, the theme for the STI Forum 2021 is: “Science, technology and innovation for a sustainable and resilient COVID-19 recovery, and effective pathways of inclusive action towards the Sustainable Development Goals”.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched a Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), which had been established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to support the Sustainable Development Goals. Member States agreed that it would “...be based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders and will be composed of a United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals, a collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals and an online platform.”

The collaborative Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) is convened annually by the President of ECOSOC and expected to “discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise.” It will “provide a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including with regard to scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building, and also in order to help facilitate development, transfer and the dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals”.

6th May *GEMS Modern Academy - Local Advisory Board*

EEG attended GEMS Modern Academy’s local advisory board meeting (LAB) on 6th May. The agenda included discussion points on Student Voices, Principal’s Update, Quality cycle, and other feedbacks. LAB members led students in productive discussions in their respective break out rooms.

The questions were set by the LAB and the common questions were asked by all. LAB members met separately to share their feedback with each other. There was an overall feeling that students were happy to be back in school. Some students did express that they have been through a lot emotionally and mentally because of the pandemic. The Principal and Vice-Principal shared that the management is sensitive and aware of the stress that students are facing.

The school has a phase-wise programme in place to assist them. Students are reminded repeatedly that there are dedicated staff they can reach out to, to share fears and worries. Posters of the team members and their contact details have been put up in school and there is now a mechanism on Phoenix for students to reach out to staff as well. Furthermore, the SLT updated LAB members on the TSIP, GNT and Future Readiness Programmes, Charitable initiatives and the Change maker Councils.

The new Change Maker model received mixed views from LAB members. Some appreciated the programme, highlighting that hierarchy and networking should be balanced. Others felt that SLT should ensure that students don’t become unenthusiastic and still retain the drive that would have otherwise come from ‘wanting the position of leadership’. On top of that, it was expressed from other members that there should not be too many initiatives as well as addressing the use of a measurement tool to track impact of the initiatives.



8th
May

Meeting with Authors of the book 'The Chance We Had'.

EEG chairperson had a meeting with Emaan Zahra and Haider Sohail, two student newcomers on 8th May to discuss on providing a platform to share their newly written book, 'The Chance We Had'.

The book is based on a 24-year old microbiologist, Alyssa Monta, who has just been the subject of a harmless prank by a close friend. However little did she know, that she would wake up almost a decade later, surrounded by the fallout of what used to be Planet Earth. As she travels the broken remnants of the cities, she stumbles upon the truths of how mankind's own neglect of their only home led to that. The co-authors creatively depicted a storyboard that accurately reflects our current state and action towards achieving a sustainable environment. 'Temperatures and sea levels are rising dramatically, drastic shifts in weather patterns, melting ice caps... Surely this affects everyone, no matter which part of the world they live in.



The consequences of our actions now will, no doubt, affect the future of generations to come', the authors said. However, the co-authors ended the story on a positive note by emphasizing the need of coming together to overcome today's these environmental crises. 'It comes down to the fact that, as long as everyone is in this together, hope for our future and the future for the next generations would grow', they added. In an age of accelerated climate change, extreme weather events, and increased risks to food/water security, the scope of environmental writing has expanded. Now, more than ever, it is necessary to communicate environmental issues with urgency, clarity, and skill. Good writing influences change. While we have faced so many challenges since the past year, it's our firm belief that with creativity and collaboration, we can recover better and achieve a more resilient, clean environment that will improve life for all of us.

10th
May

IUCN Member's Virtual Conference on Nature-based Recovery

EEG attended the IUCN Member's Virtual Conference on Nature-based Recovery on 10th May. The conference comprised of two sittings to accommodate as many Members as possible. Each session consisted of a mix of keynote speeches, panel, plenary and breakout sessions with the aim of facilitating dialogue among the IUCN constituencies. This, in turn, laid the foundations for building and

strengthening of partnerships between governments, NGOs and indigenous people's organisations at the country and regional levels to ensure nature is not forgotten in post-COVID recovery design. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than three million deaths worldwide (April 2021), compromised health systems, brought nations to a halt, and upset economic patterns all over the world, in many cases with substantial negative impacts on nature. This alone makes the occurrence of future related pandemics more likely. In order that future risks from the loss of nature, including pandemics, are minimised, efforts to rebuild economies and societies post COVID must focus significantly on investing in nature. Investing in nature and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) at scale pays off in terms of economic development, growth, jobs, health and social benefits at large. Therefore, reinforcing the case for nature in recovery was necessary. A Nature-based Recovery was of great value and interest to all IUCN Members. To reinforce the case for nature, ensure that the benefits from investing in nature are clear and translate in concrete actions, Members needed to be able to communicate thematic messages widely and collaborate to define the necessary tools and mechanisms needed to carry forward their collective effort.

17th
May

Dialogue between CSOs and Land Degradation Neutrality Fund

EEG was invited to an online meeting on 17th May along with accredited CSOs of the UNCCD for the Dialogue between CSOs and representatives of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund - 12th Fund). The Fund's mission is to be a source of transformative capital, pooling resources from both public and private investors committed to the goal of stopping land degradation to fund triple bottom line projects, contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since January 2019, the UNCCD Secretariat facilitated the participation of the CSO Panel representatives in the Strategic Board Meetings of The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund. Following this involvement, the Panel members started a constructive consultation process with the accredited CSOs to receive their insights, concerns and expectations on the LDN Fund operationalisation from various regions. In preparation for the "CRIC(19)" of the UNCCD, a synthesis report was developed by the CSO Panel members on the Operationalisation of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (prepared report by the Global Mechanism (ICCD/CRIC(19)/3) and the CSOs statement were delivered on LDN Fund in CRIC19. Both documents reflected the existing gaps, concerns and expectations of the accredited CSOs to the LDN Fund; In response to the CSO's concerns and questions and for more clarification, a Q&A document was developed by the LDN Fund.

It was also agreed that a separate event/ interactive dialogue should be organised with the CSOs and the LDN Fund stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned on land restoration/SLM projects aiming to:

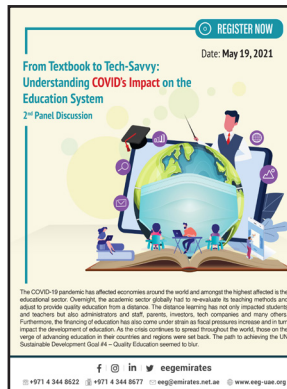
- Inform CSOs on the financed projects by the LDNF focusing on the type of projects, the financing process, effects on communities and ecosystems considering environmental, social, and sustainability standards and contribution to achieving LDN;
- Share the lessons learned on the funded projects that contribute to land restoration and sustainable land management while meeting the criteria of investment return;
- Exchange experiences, lessons learned and recommendations from CSOs to the LDN fund regarding sustainable land management and land restoration;
- Strengthen collaboration to achieve LDN at all levels.

As was said in CSOs statement on LDN: 'The post-COVID recovery requests humanity to adopt a more robust alliance and solidarity at global, regional, national, and local levels to avoid, manage, and reverse land degradation and restore natural ecosystems. Providing an approach to achieve LDN in the full context of the SDGs has become a must'.



19th May *From Textbook to Tech-Savvy: The Impact of COVID-19 on Educational Systems*

EEG hosted its 2nd panel discussion of the year on 19th May under the title “From Textbook to Tech-Savvy: The Impact of COVID-19 on Educational Systems”. Moderated by EEG chairperson herself, four distinguished speakers gave insight into the current transition and development of current educational systems with regards to fulfilling the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal #4: Quality Education. EEG chairperson expressed in her opening remarks that, “The COVID-19 pandemic has affected economies around the world and amongst the highest affected is the educational sector. Overnight, the academic sector globally had to re-evaluate its teaching methods and adjust to provide quality education from a distance. The distance learning has not only impacted students and teachers but also administrators and staff, parents, investors, tech companies and many others”. That was said to bring to attention the underprivileged students who could not afford to implement the transition as easy as the rest of the student population in other parts of the world. Education funding has also been under pressure as budgetary pressures mount and have an influence on education progress. As the issue continues to spread around the globe, people in their nations and areas have been put behind the edge of expanding education. There seems to be a regression in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal #4 - Quality Education.



EEG has organised this Panel Discussion to bring about these sudden changes and find ways to sustain the provision of quality education. It is an ultimate necessity to learn how to maintain the quality of education provided and measure the outcomes of shifting to digital learning. To assess the sustainability of online learning is a must as it is known it will continue to be a part of our lives. Never before have so many children had been out of school at the same time, disrupting learning and upending lives, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. The global pandemic has far-reaching consequences that may jeopardize hard won gains made in improving global education and eliminating illiteracy thus achieving the SDG #4. EEG invited Mr. Saji Thomas, Chief Child Protection of the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund, Dr. Yousef Al-Assaf, President of Rochester Institute of Technology, H.E. Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang, Commissioner for Human Resource and Youth Development, Education, and Science and Technology of the African Union Commission, and Dr. Norita Ahmad, Director of Center for Innovation Teaching and Learning, and an Associate Professor of MIS at American University of Sharjah. As the world copes with the COVID pandemic, EEG remains optimistic about 2021 and continues its work to push the agenda of sustainable development to the forefront in these unprecedented times.

22nd May *Ounass Tree Planting and Clean Up*

Throughout the world, people want the same things: access to clean air and water; economic opportunities; a safe and healthy place to raise families; shelter; lifelong learning; a sense of community; and the ability to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. EEG and Ounass share a common goal in building a sustainable community as it is the way to respond better to the challenges arising from issues such as climate change and to mitigate and eliminate other environmental problems. EEG was delighted with the contribution of Ounass to plant 67 native trees on 22nd May. By planting trees, we are investing in healthy forests for today and for future generations.



Collaborative efforts such as this helps restore tens of thousands of acres of habitat and protect watersheds and wetlands that provide life’s most sustaining resource for thousands of communities and some of our largest cities. Moreover, on the same day, Ounass extended their helping hand and joined in the Clean Up UAE campaign. The act of removing rubbish and improving the environment contributes to the protection of habitats for native wildlife to thrive and prevent further degradation of lands. EEG staff made sure that both activities were adhering to the UAE’s rules and regulations conserving conducting public activities during the Pandemic while being conducted as the health and safety of our volunteers, is of paramount importance to us as it is for protecting the environment. We are only as healthy as our planet, and we all depend upon a healthy ecosystem in order to thrive. We need to act as a unit to upgrade our degraded ecosystems. There are so many ways in which we can do our bit for the environment and help Mother Nature spring back to life. By doing things like planting trees, cleanup campaigns, or simply giving nature space to recover, we can increase their benefits to society and biodiversity. EEG has since the start of this initiative in 2007, succeeded in planting and overseeing the planting of 2,101,005 indigenous trees. Furthermore, the total waste collected during the cleanup campaign with Ounass was 150kg.

26th May *CEBC Annual Summit 2021*

EEG attended the CEBC Annual Summit on 26th May on a virtual platform. The CEBC Clean Energy Annual Summit is a flagship event where experts and industry leaders from across the globe come together to discuss the clean energy trends, challenges, opportunities and outlook. The summit focuses on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) market. Several relevant topics were the focus of the summit such as; Climate Finance, Energy Efficiency, Electric Mobility, Energy Storage, Green Hydrogen and more. This summit was organised by the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) which is nonprofit organisation dedicated to promoting clean energy including renewables, energy efficiency, smart grid, energy storage and clean energy technology and solutions for the environmental sector to help drive the implementation of clean energy across the MENA region.



26th May *High Level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE): Invitation to deep-dive workshop*

EEG digitally attended the High Level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE): Invitation to deep-dive workshop. The HLDE's purpose is to promote SDG7 action before COP26 in recognition that expediting a fair, low-carbon transition and the achievement of universal access to clean energy is crucial to fulfilling both the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals and guaranteeing inclusive and resilient green recovery. In the context of this high-level energy dialogue, the workspace was organized by UN Energy and dealt with perspectives for catalytic action in the areas of energy access, energy transition and the implementation of SDGs by 2030 through an integrated energy transition towards a further SDG 7 and net zero emissions by 2050. The interactive workshop included an in-depth presentation on the Energy Compacts and an interrogatory session to examine how the Energy Compact is formed and registered to contribute to the SDG7 process and a high-level energy discourse on net zero emissions. As co-chair, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and Special Representative on Sustainable Energy for All of the Secretary-General mobilize the four major dialog topics: energy access; just transition; innovation & data and funding for active 'compacts' from both governments and the private sector.

26th May *Carbonation Technology: The Future of Smart & Green Materials*

EEG attended a webinar on 26th May on environment friendly building materials titled: "Carbonation Technology and the Future of Smart & Green Materials" organised by Zayed International Prize for the Environment. The webinar was held virtually and focused on discussing the strategies, solutions and legislations that the government should take an active role in environmental protection and sustainability and sustainable construction particularly. The webinar revolved around the role of environmental innovations and the use of sustainable material to alleviate the impact of environmental challenges. The Chairman of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment opened the seminar and expressed his hopes for the realisation of the vision of H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to make Dubai by 2050 the first city in the world with the least Carbon Footprint.

28th May *EEG attends the UNFSS Civil Society Public Forum*

On the 28th of May, EEG attended the Civil Society Public Forum organised by the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). This was a part of a series of online events that began in 2020, providing stakeholders and actors with a platform to engage and ask questions regarding the engagement process. The UNFSS is a pathway that transforms the way people around the world produce and consume food, and in doing so, deliver on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. During the Forum, representatives of five Action Tracks provided an overview of the current work undertaken and their ideas on the way forward. The Action Tracks and their framework focused on:

- **Action Track 1:** Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all (promote food security and end hunger, improve access to nutritious food, making food safe)
- **Action Track 2:** Shift to sustainable and healthy consumption patterns (enabling inspiring and motivating people to enjoy healthy and sustainable options, slashing food loss & waste)
- **Action Track 3:** Boost-nature positive production (protect natural ecosystems, sustainably manage existing food production systems, restore degraded ecosystems)
- **Action Track 4:** Advance equitable livelihoods (rebalancing agency within food systems, eliminating worker exploitation and ensuring decent work in food systems, localising food systems)
- **Action Track 5:** Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress (food systems resilience, universal food access, climate resilient development pathways to food system transportation)

Apart from the Action Tracks, the Forum focused on different areas of engagement including national dialogues, independent dialogues and ideas from the scientific group. The Forum brought forth the Secretary-General's statement and provided calls to action covering: Re-affirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Underscoring the urgency to act in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the centrality of food systems and the need to stay within planetary boundaries, the imperative to realise basic human rights and the emphasis on the urgency of moving beyond incremental action, the importance of a systems approach and the importance of highlighting the need to realise the true cost of food. The Forum provided the main areas of convergence: Nourish People, Climate Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Wellbeing, Empowered Communities, Resilience and Knowledge & Innovation. Attendees were also provided with an overview on the new Solution Clusters (under each Action Track), which is another concrete opportunity to get involved and in further shaping the work of the UNFSS.

Global Young Writers Competition on 'Our Planet'

Together with Reedz, EEG is inviting young authors to participate in the Global Writing Competition on the subject of Sustainability and 'Our Planet,' a worldwide writing competition, in order to make their own Audiobook published by AppStore and Google Play in more than 25 languages. Reedz is a non-fiction audiobook library with summaries of bestsellers and fact-books for children. Every month new titles are added in as many as 25 + languages and dialects. Powered by ground-breaking AI technologies, Reedz offers one of the largest, most diverse and multi-lingual audiobook libraries. The writing competition is aimed at stimulating aspiring authors, while at the same time supporting curricular coursework. Having young writer's work published as an audiobook in 25+ languages, gives tremendous exposure to budding writers, and university applicants. Participants are asked to write a 500 word essay written in any language featured on the Reedz app, while being mindful and respectful of cultural, political, and religious subject matters. The competition entry is open for young authors from age 8 to 18 till 4th June. Entries will be judged by an in-house panel of editors engaged by Reedz.

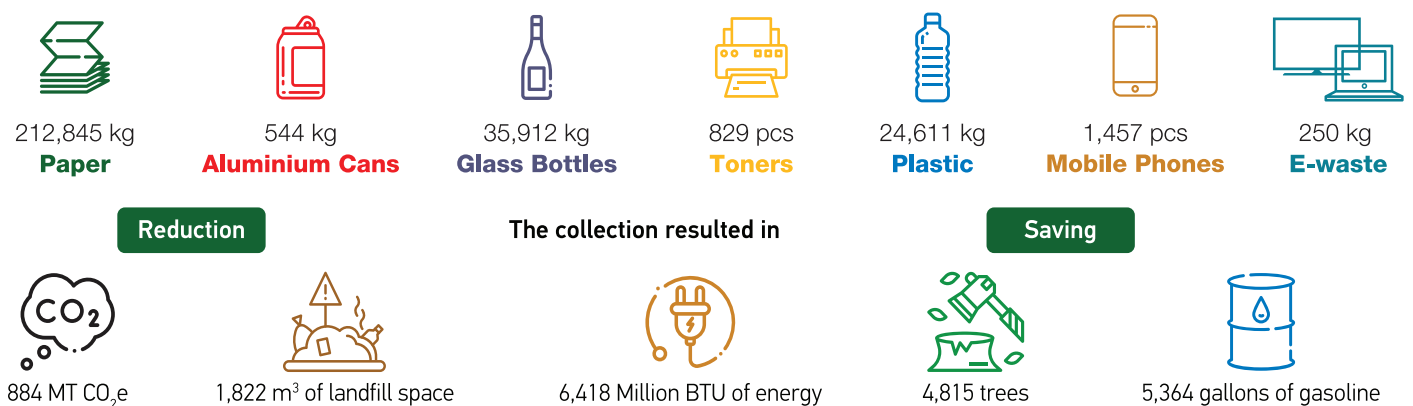


Otis and the Tiger's Den Book

EEG individual member - Grandad John Conneely published a book 'Otis and the Tiger's Den'. The book highlights the necessity of being honest and ethical about climate change action. From small children to grandparents, the book may be appreciated at all ages. The author proposes that the youngsters should be accompanied by an adult when reading, rather than simplifying the subject. In doing so, the discussion on environmental sustainability and major arguments highlighted in the UN Posters will assist to explain greenhouse gases, fossil fuels and the ozone layer. The Author discussed with UNICEF that the book's earnings would benefit projects divided equally between UNICEF and eco-projects in the Middle East and in North Africa (MENA). 35 hard copies of the original book were printed for family and the approval authorities. The published book is produced in Dubai using Len zing recycled paper, a CO₂-neutral, cellulose recycling technique.

OROC Phase 1 Conclusion

EEG is delighted to finally wrap up the 1st phase of One Root, One Communi-Tree (OROC) project for the year which started on 21st January and concluded on 21st May. Our sincerest appreciation goes to individuals and entities who gave it their all even during these unprecedented times.



The total number of registered participants was 277, out of which 147 managed to achieve the target successfully which resulted to 541 Trees to be planted in 21.12.21 for "For Our Emirates We Plant". Your active participation in the first half of the programme and willingness to get involved have been instrumental and promising to look forward for a greener tomorrow. Give yourself a clap!

Educational News

Environmental Drawing Competition 2021

Art creates an emotional force since visual pictures speak louder than words. Furthermore, art helps to build mental and physical skills among the young people, and therefore educators have shown great interest in understanding the linkages between arts and human development in recent years. EEG launched its 15th cycle of the annual Environmental Drawing Competition (EDC) on 4th January to assist the student community to develop their personal and creative approach to convey their views and ideas and to show a feeling of care and concern for the environment. The innovative national competition provides a forum for children from various ages to express their interest for the environment via art. Taking into consideration the closure of the majority of schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the awarding ceremony was held virtually on 24th May. EDC is one of the most popular events of EEG; hundreds of schools across the UAE take part each year. This year, students were given the opportunity to creatively express their views on the following topics, "Your Vision of Biodiversity by 2030", "Dubai Expo and the Future of Sustainability" and "Sustainable Recovery after the Pandemic". The awarding ceremony recognised the young artists and presented a colorful atmosphere by celebrating the 39 winning submissions. Each of the wonderful drawings had a distinct vision of environmental concerns and showed optimism for a sustainable future for the young people. A team of professional artists was responsible for the evaluation of the competition. EEG sends all the pupils that participated in this contest its greatest gratitude and admiration. We urge students to work on nurturing their talents to help create awareness of environmental and sustainability challenges for a greener and healthier tomorrow.





Restored Land, Healthy People, Green Recovery

UNCCD NEWS

Protecting and restoring nature can help drive a green recovery and prevent future pandemics. Investing in nature-based solutions, specifically land restoration, will allow us to build forward better, greener, healthier, stronger, and more sustainably. COVID-19 has revealed how vulnerable our societies and economies are to global, systemic risk. Its root causes - land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change - are interlinked. Furthermore, they are planetary crises in themselves. The pandemic, is rooted in exploitation of the environment, it has been a devastating but timely wake-up call. It has shown that if we continue to abuse nature, waves of crises will cascade across our economies and societies. On the other hand, it has also shown that we can respond decisively when political will, collective action and sustained investment are aligned. Today, more than ever, societies are ready for change; there is broad consensus that it is not only desirable but possible to build forward better, towards sustainable development anchored in multilateralism and global solidarity. Land restoration is an essential component of any building-forward strategy. In preparation for the UN PGA High-level event on desertification, land degradation and drought, the UNCCD secretariat prepared a brief that presents land-centered solutions for green recovery post COVID-19.

[Click for more](#)



UNEP Partners with Google to Hunt for Plastic Pollution

UNEP NEWS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced recently that it is working to fight plastic pollution using citizen science and machine learning, with technical advisory support from Google. UNEP will with Google's support, create a new machine learning model that reveals a more detailed and accurate view of plastic pollution in the Mekong River in Southeast Asia. The new machine learning model developed by UNEP, Google and Geo-informatics Centre (GIC) will add to these efforts, creating a tool that can generate a much more detailed & accurate view of the plastic pollution problem in the Mekong River and beyond. This machine learning model will contribute to the development of a plastic leakage hotspot map. The map can then be used by local and national governments to determine how to target policies and resources to prevent plastic leaking into waterways. The collaboration will also contribute to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

[Click for more](#)



Filling the Gaps in the Global Governance of Marine Plastic Pollution

IUCN NEWS

In a new article "Filling the Gaps in the Global Governance of Marine Plastic Pollution in Natural Resources & Environment" (Vol. 35, No. 4, 7th May 2021), it states that Marine pollution is one of the key elements that contribute to the degradation of this shared, interconnected, and largest ecosystem of the Earth. In terms of governance measures, legal instruments and institutional frameworks at the global, regional, national, and subnational levels play important roles in combating marine pollution. Indeed, numerous agreements and various institutional arrangements exist. However, some subject matters (e.g., governance of marine biodiversity areas beyond national jurisdiction) may benefit from a global, integrated, and coordinated action. Candidate problems are multidimensional and transboundary in nature with existing gaps in legal and institutional arrangements where sectoral and fragmented governance measures are ineffective. Marine plastic pollution arguably falls into such a category. The article also discusses challenges associated with marine plastic pollution and key elements of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly assessment on marine plastic pollution governance measures (2017 UNEA Assessment) as well as some of the lessons learned from the on-going high seas treaty negotiations at the UN that could provide insights to future negotiations on a global binding agreement on marine plastic pollution.

[Click for more](#)

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 16 new student members & 7 renewed student members in the month of May 2021

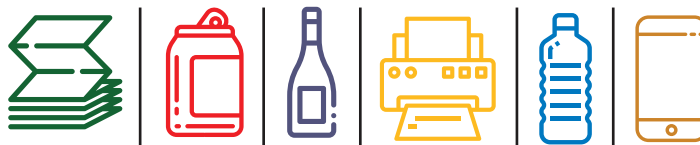
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Nakul Krishna Anil	New	Navneet Ravi Sankar	Renewal
Siddhesh A. Naidu	New	Maria Messac	Renewal
Zehra Ellahi	New	Fariza Ellahi	Renewal
Emaan Zahra	New	Sagarika Sriram	Renewal
Haider Sohail Ijaz	New	Mahati Iyyappan	Renewal
Ashitha Ganesan	New	Raahil Sajaad Sheik	Renewal
Vedika Kumar	New		
Adithya Anush	New		
Kshirja Dhariwal	New		
Aditya Rajesh	New		
Ali Humaid Ali Al Ali	New		
Venkatesan Sundar	New		
Rasim Ahmed	New		
Stuti Kamath	New		
Veda Dinesh	New		
Salama Taleb Husain Ali Alameri	New		



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

- » **GHG Reductions 334 (MTCO₂)**
- » **Saving of 2,367 Million BTU of Energy**
- » **Saving of 611 m³ of Landfill Space**
- » **Saving of 1,843 trees from being felled**
- » **Saving of 2,006 Gallons of Gasoline**



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 81,412 kg of Paper from 209 participants during the month of May 2021, an increase of 22% compared to April 2021. We urge our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2021 to enable us to achieve our targets. The Top Collectors were:	Private International English School Abu Dhabi	4,420	Deep Shah	1,130
	Rashid School For Boys	3,540	OM Gupta	565
	Delhi Private School Dubai	2,100	Fatma Faraj Hassan Alamiri & M.N. Vivekanadan (Tie)	520
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected 314 kg of Aluminum Cans from 22 participants during the month of May 2021, an increase of 376% compared to April 2021. The top collectors for the month were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	85	-	-
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 7,852 kg of Plastic from 134 participants during the month of May 2021 an increase of 18% compared to April 2021. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2021. The top collectors for the month were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	490	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	97
	Dubai National School	148	Christina Mary Rajan	70
	Clarion School	143	Hannah P Shelly David	57
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected 167 pieces of Toners from 7 participants during the month of May 2021, an increase of 193% compared to April 2021. We encourage our participants to be more active in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Benjamin Jobilal	15
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected 559 pieces of Mobile Phones from 10 participants during the month of May 2021, a decrease of 66% compared to April 2021. We thank our participants for supporting us and we encourage them to be active in the collection of this valuable material in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	Our Own High School, Al Warqaa	75	Pranav Jolly Pratheesh	101
	-	-	Aaron Binoy	31
	-	-	Siddhesh Naidu	30
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 4,900 kg of Glass Bottles from 47 participants during the month of May 2021, a decrease of 9% compared to April 2021. We urge our participants to support us and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2021 to help us achieve our targets. The Top collectors were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	500	Dave C Pais	182
	-	-	Elizabeth Dsa	108
	-	-	Hind Mahmood Rasheed	50
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 406 kg of E-waste from 10 participants during the month of May 2021, an increase of 123% compared to April 2021. We thank our participants and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	Ethen Girls School for Basic Education Rak	20	Manan Nilesh Chandak	250
	-	-	-	-
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	EEG has collected 70 kg of Scrap metals from McDonald's UAE during the month of May 2021, an increase of 75% compared to April 2021. We encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme.			
EEG invites all its members & participants to intensify efforts for the year 2021 to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment and achieve the set targets for the above campaigns.				

