

# EEG CORP NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



July 2021  
Issue 07

## VIRTUAL PLATFORM

3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

## SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING & THE FOOD ECONOMY

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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

The month of June has been a critical month for all environmental activists around the world.

World Environment Day 2021 was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June to remind people about the importance of nature. It is celebrated across the globe to tell people that nature should not be taken for granted and must be respected for its values. EEG celebrated the day as is the practice every year and joined the movement, #GenerationRestoration, which calls for the revival and protection of Earth's ecosystems.

We have been abusing and ruining our planet's ecosystems for far too long. Every three seconds, the globe loses enough forest to cover a football field, and we've lost half of our wetlands in the last century. COVID-19's appearance has also demonstrated the devastating implications of ecological destruction. With our irresponsible attitudes and behaviour we have created ideal circumstances for infections, such as coronaviruses, to proliferate by reducing the extent of natural habitat for animals. With this large and difficult picture in mind, the World Environment Day theme of "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore" put focus on ecosystem restoration.

On this special occasion, EEG rolled out the 24<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Emirates Recycling Awards and concluded its quest to celebrate the 2021 eco champions (read more on page 7). EEG congratulates all the Award recipients on their remarkable accomplishments. We take this opportunity to express EEG's gratitude to H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qassimi for his patronage and the words of encouragement to our participants and students. We'd like to thank all our sponsors and supporters for their support and contributions, which helped make the event a tremendous success; McDonalds UAE, EPSON, Acer, and Etihad Airways who sponsored the event, and Almarai, Del Monte, L'Oréal, Nikai Group of Companies, ITL Cosmos, Nestle, Unilever, Brother International, Dabur, and Wild Wadi Dubai Parks & Resorts who provided hampers and vouchers.

EEG also launched a special project with one of its active corporate members Dabur on the occasion of the world environment day the 5th of June, to deal with empty shampoo plastic bottles. The project rewards families who manage to deposit their empty shampoo bottles at the EEG office to receive a full shampoo bottle from Dabur. We invite all our readers and members to avail of this unique opportunity.

Moreover, June witnessed the celebration of Desertification and Drought Day on 17<sup>th</sup> June, which focused on turning degraded land into healthy land. In honour of the occasion, EEG rolled out the 6th cycle of 'Recycle. Reforest. Repeat' project as a means of advancing and strengthening UNCCD's successful collaboration.

EEG also produced a special poster on the occasion as is customary of her since joining the UNCCD in 2003. In addition to all the above, we have rolled

out another of our annual summer action programmes, the 'Neighbourhood Recycling Programme' on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Gather your loved ones and get involved in an activity that will put a smile on Mother Nature! Our doors of registrations are open until 30<sup>th</sup> September (Read more on 8).

EEG managed to attend a number of regional and international events in June, including UNEP, GISD, and UNGA, an online dialogue with Nestlé, a roundtable discussion with Dubai Business Groups and Councils organised by Dubai Chamber of Commerce and the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, among others. Building partnerships is critical for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mobilising societies. By attending webinars and conferences it affords us the opportunity to expand our knowledge of best practices that are relevant to the organisation's growth and development.

EEG is always open and looking for different ways to collaborate with its wide base of different stakeholders which is important to stimulate the transition to a more sustainable society. In that domain we held two special student workshops for our academic members; Cambridge International School and the Our Own High School Al Warqa'a. We are passionate about our work in this area, and our goal throughout is to inspire students with a love of learning and to help them become independent thinkers and responsible citizens of the world.

While I stepped down from GEMS Modern Academy as a member of the Local Advisory Board, a position that I held since May 2018, I joined the Lab advisory board of the "Our own High School Al Warqa'a". It was a pleasure to work with GEMS Modern Academy as we navigated both the good times and the more challenging times and I am looking forward to be actively involved in the later.

On the international front, I am honoured to have been selected to serve a two year term (July 2021-July 2023) as a Director on the board of the World Green Building Council. I am also proud to announce that out of more than 700 submissions, one of EEG's annual programmes, the 'For Our Emirates We Plant', has been successfully chosen as one of the 'Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs' for the year 2021 by UN.

EEG has prepared many educational and action programmes for its members and followers to engage in as we enter the second half of the year. For the month of July for example, join our 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion: 'Sustainable Packaging & the Food Economy' and the 'One Root, One Communi-Tree' Phase 2.

I will conclude by saying that wherever and whenever the quality goes down for the environment, the quality of life goes down for humans as well. Let us strengthen our bonds and work together for a better tomorrow.



## UN Engagements

*In the month of June, EEG participated in a several UN engagements:*

### 1) Working Group 3: Using Product Lifetime Extension to Advance Circular Economy

EEG was invited to a virtual meeting on Using Product Lifetime Extension to Advance Circular Economy arranged by the One Planet Network Consumer Information Programme on 1<sup>st</sup> June. In 2020, the One Planet Network Consumer Information Programme set up a new working group on Product Lifetime Extension, led by UNEP and the Akatu Institute. The Working Group aims to bring together practitioners and policy makers and push progress towards product lifetime extension policies and practices worldwide and better engage consumers by raising awareness and improving communication on product lifetime extension. The purpose of the programme was to communicate product lifetime extension and share the data collected from the research and case studies. The ideas shared and discussed centralised around the lifetime of products and lack of sustainability with the current linear system. The focus was on promoting long-term use of products, through repair and design, making them re-usable, recyclable and reduces their waste and environmental impact. The meeting also discussed the issues of the textile industry, sharing the new report of ECOS. This was an issue for which EEG had shown its concerns as well, back in 2020 when EEG held its first Panel discussion on Sustainability in the Fashion Industry.

### 2) UN Food Systems Summit Action Tracks 1 & 2

At the UN Food Systems Summit, EEG on 7<sup>th</sup> June participated and was a part of specific solution cluster for the implementation of game-changing solution propositions for Action Track 1: Access to safe nutritious food for all and Action Track 2: Sustainable consumption. EEG proposed a set of ideas for game-changing and systemic solutions to achieve the goals of Action Track 1 (AT1) of the UN Food Systems Summit. With these ideas, AT1 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD). Achieving this goal requires delivering on the right to food to ensure that all people at all times have access to sufficient quantities of affordable and safe food. This in turn entails a need to increase the availability of safe and nutritious food, making food more affordable and reducing inequities in food access. AT1 has thus been working to identify, collect, co-create and iteratively tailor a set of systemic and game changing solutions to achieve these aims. AT1 organised the search for sustainable, actionable solutions with potential for impact at scale along three main themes: 'Zero Hunger', 'Access to Nutritious Food', and 'Food Safety'.

As for the second Action Track, proposed frameworks of action to achieve the goals of Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable and healthy consumption patterns were presented. Guided by the best available scientific evidence, best practice and real-world examples, Action Track 2 aims to generate new and support existing game-changing solutions that can catalyse shifts in consumption through changes in food policy, food environments, private sector actions & offerings and consumer behaviour. A transition towards diets which are healthier, safer and more nature positive, from food systems which are economically equitable and socially just needs to retain desirability while celebrating and sharing cultural identity. Key outcomes to which the proposed solutions should contribute include a dramatic increase in the diversity, availability, accessibility and affordability of safe foods that contribute to healthy diets from sustainable food systems and more.

### 3) EEG attends informal workshops on the implementation of UNGA resolution 73/333

EEG attended the first informal online workshop on the implementation of UNGA resolution 73/333 also known as 'Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277' on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The workshop offered a platform for stakeholders to have discussions on the inputs received to the first draft of the building blocks of a political declaration circulated on 7 October 2020. EEG is proud to put on record that we are one of the four stakeholders who have provided recommendations to the document. Please find our inputs here:

Other issues that were discussed by government and non-government stakeholders included:

1. Questions of governance
2. Questions on environmental law
3. Means of implementation

[Click for more](#)

Another highlight of the workshop was a presentation on 'UNEP at Fifty: Aspirational vision for the next 50 years' that focused on UNEP's role in the future as a unifier and collaborator. According to the speaker, the 50th anniversary provides UNEP with the unique opportunity to raise awareness regarding its achievements, reflect on its core mandates and analyse the way forward.

EEG attended the second informal workshop on the 22nd of June, which tackled the following questions:

4. Which building blocks under title "Strengthening international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development" might expand current mandates or fall outside the scope of resolution 73/333?
5. What are the benefits of having United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) as a central collaboration platform that provides overarching policy guidance and sets the global environmental agenda?
6. What action can the UN Environment Assembly ("UNEA"), as a universal body, take that would reaffirm and strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as an authoritative advocate for the global environment?

Overall, Member States and stakeholders supported the building blocks proposals and reaffirmed UNEP's role as the universal highest-level decision-making body on the environment. The 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### 4) Working Group of the 'Nature for Climate' - UNEP West Asia

As part of the solutions cluster, EEG attended the webinar on 'Nature for Climate' arranged by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on 14<sup>th</sup> June. The discussion highlighted that there are no quick technical fixes to solve the climate emergency and our over-exploitation of natural resources. But we do have nature, with its immense restorative power and some of the most cost-effective climate solutions. By working with nature, we have the potential to reduce emissions by more than a third of what is needed by 2030, but we need to start now. Without nature, the target of achieving 1.5°C or net-zero emissions by 2050 will not be achieved, nor will we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In other words, we need to explore and invest in what nature does best: self-healing. This is what is called nature-based solutions. The UN Environment Programme works from the ground up, with small communities and at the highest levels, to shift relationship with nature and help provide sustainable solutions to the unfolding climate crisis. 2020 was a super year for nature—a unique opportunity to bring nature into development, biodiversity and climate solutions in a coherent way and at unprecedented scale. In 2020, nations assessed progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, set out new ambitions to stop biodiversity loss and demonstrated climate commitments to meet the Paris Agreement. All this made 2020 a crucial year—one that will pave the way for the success of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.



## 5) UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2021

EEG virtually attended the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit on 15<sup>th</sup> June. It was hosted by the UN Global Compact. The United Nations Global Compact is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world and an initiative of the late UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan. It was initiated to elevate ambition for strategic collective action, with focused objectives and clear paths to recovery from the continued climate crisis, global pandemic, economic disparities and social inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the destruction created by humanity and the importance of taking action against this. The summit emphasised the importance of the role of businesses with regards to achieving the SDGs. Executives from the UN have continuously urged the move towards green financing. It is inclusive of Corporates, Governments, the UN and Civil Society. It focuses on the recovery from the on-going climate crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, economic disparities, social inequalities and corruption. The speed in which SDGs are targeted is very slow. Only through multi-stakeholder collaboration, innovative thought leadership, transparent reporting on progress and focused data driven initiatives can we get back on track. Sustainable goals must be involved in businesses. More importantly, measuring the goals is necessary.

## 6) A Special Webinar for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

EEG digitally attended a conference, organised by the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future on assignment from the United Nations Environment Programme, entitled 'What happened at the first meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEA 5.1? - A Special Webinar for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders' on 15<sup>th</sup> June. UNEA 5.1 took place in February 2021, an abbreviated virtual meeting due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This 3-hour webinar summarised and analysed what happened at UNEA 5.1, what was agreed and what was discussed and decided as a way forward at the second and final session, UNEA 5.2, on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March & 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022.

On behalf of the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Senior Advisor on Governance for Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future explored how the two UNEA meetings are connected, and in doing so consider UNEA in the context of the nearly 50 years that have passed since the founding of UNEP in 1972. In addition, the session discussed the two commemorative events due to take place next year, UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50. Stakeholder Forum announced its Autumn 2021 series of in-depth capacity-building webinars for each of the six UNEP Regions, aimed at preparing Major Groups and other Stakeholders to effectively engage with and participate in UNEA 5.2.

## 7) Extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

In accordance with paragraph 7 of UNEA Decision 5/3, which reads "Recommends that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its 154<sup>th</sup> meeting, consider, in view of systemic problems and in a comprehensive manner, the cycle of the term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in relation to that of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly", the Committee considered the cycle of term of office of the CPR Bureau at a meeting of the subcommittee on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and at the 154<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (agenda items 4 and 5; document UNEP/CPR/154/2).

In view of reaching consensus on the matter, additional informal consultations were held, involving all regional groups. The consultations resulted in the annexed draft decision of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Bureau of the CPR at its meeting in June requested that the draft decision is made available to all Member States for final consideration at the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to adopt the decision in conjunction with the election, by acclamation, of a new Bureau of the Committee for the period 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2023.

## 8) Pre Meetings for Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

Taking part in the series of meetings conducted by UNEP, EEG attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-meet held on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June. The meetings were convened to discuss Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and to find solutions against this issue. The Agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-meet was to discuss the current status and the problems to be addressed. Discussing topics such as fragmented government approaches, national & regional contributions required, mobilising funds, transference of essential knowledge and technology and inclusion of plastic-lifecycle measures in national plans. The majority of issues brought out and discussed were the ones highlighted by AHEG. The role of the stakeholders were also discussed in detail, analysing what role the government, business, investors, banks, donors and scientific community etc. could play in this cause. The main purpose of this meeting was to; further identify the gaps to develop the Global instrument/agreement and to realise the desired outcomes of the UNEA 5.2.

## 9) UN DESA Financing Global Climate Action and Digital Solutions

The UN DESA arranged a webinar titled 'Financing Global Climate Action and Promoting Digital Solutions' in which EEG attended on 30<sup>th</sup> June. 'Financing Global Climate Action and Promoting Digital Solutions', the 4<sup>th</sup> and final session of the Global Policy Dialogues for Climate Action brought together leading voices in the fields of climate finance and digital governance. Finance experts, policymakers, and climate and sustainable development practitioners discussed the best approaches to ensure that climate financing measures are included in rebuilding efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that such efforts are inclusive and help the most vulnerable. Additionally, attention was paid to emerging digital solutions, including ideas related to the Internet of Things, Climate adaptation and mitigation and ways to scale them up. Cross-cutting issues such as financing, governance, gender, data and statistics were also part of the discussion. This event was made possible by the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund.

## 10) SDG Good Practices: For Our Emirates We Plant

In the six years since the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were adopted in 2015, many governments, UN entities, international and regional organisations and stakeholders have gained in-depth knowledge and expertise and taken innovative steps towards implementing this ambitious global framework. The second open call for SDG good practices, success stories and lessons learned in the implementation of 2030 Agenda was closed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The purpose of this call was to highlight examples of good practices, including those that could be replicated or scaled-up by others across the globe.

Out of more than 700 submissions, EEG's annual programme, 'For Our Emirates We Plant', has been successfully chosen as one of the '2<sup>nd</sup> Open Call for Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs' for the year 2021. The tree planting programme went on to become amongst the most popular programmes of EEG. Organisations, Academic institutions and Families became more responsive and interested in preserving the environment through this beautiful endeavour. EEG will continue its legacy of improving and increasing the sustainable green spaces and creating carbon sinks in the UAE and mark its commitment to UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) by planting more native trees across the country.



## GISD Engagements

*In the month of June, EEG participated in a several GISD engagements:*

### 1) GISD/Task Team 2 meeting

Partaking in the development process of the GISD strategy, EEG chairperson attended a meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The GISD Task Team 2 held a meeting to discuss and collect feedback on the sector-specific metric reports and the SDG-related disclosure framework. An integral component to the programme was to discuss the sector-wise report and gain feedback to further develop it. The reports contained in-depth analysis of each of the sectors (e.g. Healthcare) highlighting the areas they affect and the SDGs it aligns with. The purpose of this sector-wise report is to realise the areas of Impact, guiding companies to make better and more sustainable investments. With the presence of the sector leads, a major part of the discussion involved how the consultations will be undertaken. These frameworks along with the UNDPs SDG impact initiative, were emphasised on, all working towards a sustainable future.

### 2) GISD Co-Chairs' meeting with GISD CEOs

EEG chairperson, a member of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance, attended the (GISD) Co-Chairs' meeting with CEOs on 7<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting revolved around the update on the status of the GISD Key Deliverables as well as brought special attention to the "Asks to the CEOs" which served as a basis for the discussion. CEOs were asked to delegate feedback on the metric reports to their technical teams. GISD members outside of the task team were welcomed to contribute in addition to members inside the task team. GISD members also provided introductions to relevant industry associations and companies during the consultation phase. GISD recommendations could create a momentum on SDG-related disclosures by guiding standard setters in designing future sustainability reporting frameworks and by having companies voluntarily complying with these principles. CEOs were asked to rally behind this idea and issue these recommendations at the annual GISD Alliance meeting in October together with the report on sector-specific metrics. These recommendations could then be sent to the relevant standard setters (e.g. IFRS) but also to the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, which is working on the issue of corporate sustainability reporting.

### 3) GISD and Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Market

The GISD and Taskforce meeting on 'Scaling Voluntary Carbon Market' took place on a virtual platform, in which EEG chairperson participated on 14<sup>th</sup> June. The Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets is a private sector-led initiative working to scale an effective and efficient voluntary carbon market to help meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The ambition of the Taskforce was to achieve a step-change in the scale of private, voluntary carbon markets (>15x growth) to help limit warming to 1.5 °C. The work of the Taskforce was to map the critical pain points limiting the scale-up of voluntary carbon markets and to build consensus on how best to scale these markets. The Taskforce's unique value proposition has been to bring all parts of the value chain to work intensively together and to provide recommended actions for the most pressing pain-points facing voluntary carbon markets. It was decided, as the meeting came to an end, to believe in the Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs) as they have the opportunity to contribute significantly to climate change mitigation.

### 4) GISD Strategy Group Meeting

EEG participated in a virtual meeting of the GISD Strategy Group on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Members of the GISD Alliance were invited to come up with suggestions for leveraging the UN Global Compact's CFO Network's impact and efforts. Members were also encouraged to contribute to a new roadmap that included clear goals and important milestones. The conference also emphasized the need of Public Development Banks (PDB) in offering and developing blended financing services. In addition, the Task team co-Leads provided an update to the Strategy Group on the progress of their work, stating that all deliverables are on schedule.

### 5) GISD SDI Definition Call

EEG chairperson participated in the GISD virtual update call on the GISD Sustainable Development Investing (SDI) definition on 28<sup>th</sup> June. This definition sets minimum thresholds that investment strategies and products should meet to qualify as aligned with sustainable development. This helps counter the risk of SDG-washing and misleading investment products that use sustainable development as a marketing tool. The definition can enable investors to make a significant contribution to the UN SDGs. The definition goes beyond broad principles and includes concrete steps for its operationalisation in an investment portfolio centered on the SDGs. These steps build on the many initiatives underway to reinforce investment practices (e.g., UNDP's Assurance standards) as well as on existing sustainable-related standards (e.g., Green bond and UN Global Compact Principles). The definition complements and reinforces these initiatives by integrating them into a concrete methodology designed to credibly align investment portfolios with sustainable development objectives.

## Nestle Water's New Strategic Direction

EEG was invited to digitally attend the online dialogue held by Nestlé titled 'How can businesses achieve a positive water impact?' on 28<sup>th</sup> June. At the end of last year, Nestlé announced that its water business will support the environmental sustainability of watersheds by aiming to regenerate water cycles and create a positive water impact everywhere its water business operates by 2025.

This new Water Commitment goes beyond previous proactive actions, with the goal to deliver measurable volumetric water benefits and ensure the future prosperity of ecosystems and the availability of safe, clean water. Nestlé disclosed details of their commitment and their implementation plans to the public.

Ahead of the official communication, they shared details of this commitment to facilitate discussions on how it can best be achieved. At this session, Nestlé discussed candidly their plans to achieve this pledge, including the scope, the methodology behind the commitment and examples of projects that are planned to contribute to achieving their ambitions plans. Earlier on, Nestlé Waters had announced a new strategic direction and accordingly an External Expert Panel group was formed wherein the EEG chairperson was invited to be part of the panel. The External Expert Panel group held a meeting that revolved around Nestlé Waters' 2025 Water Stewardship Goal.

The Panel helped ensure that water stewardship opportunities identified by Nestlé Waters sites address local and regional shared water challenges and reflect stakeholder priorities and water stewardship best practices. To create a positive water impact everywhere it operates by 2025, Nestlé Waters will contribute to regenerate the water cycle by implementing activities that, in sum, provide a volumetric water benefits greater than what Nestlé Waters withdrawals at its production sites, from springs, wells or utilities, surface or groundwater, freshwater, seawater or brackish water. To regenerate the water cycle and create a positive impact where Nestlé Waters operate, activities must pass through a criterion. The activity selection criterion is composed of the following sections: Additive, Attributable, Quantifiable, Relevant and Timely.



7<sup>th</sup>  
June***The 7<sup>th</sup> International Date Palm Conference - 2022***

EEG Chairperson is delighted to join the Organising Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Date Palm Conference 2022, by the General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, in cooperation with the UAE University and a number of ministries, local institutions and international organisations. The conference will be held under the generous patronage of H.H Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan - President of the UAE, may God protect him, and H.E Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, Chairman of the Award's Board of Trustees will attend. The conference will be held during the period (14-16 March 2022) at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi under the slogan "Sustainable Date Palm Production". The conference provides a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions between scientists specialised in date palms and senior officials in charge of palm cultivation and date production and industry around the world. The conference aims to provide an opportunity to update scientific knowledge on various aspects of date palm production, propagation, protection and marketing, as well as to present and compare the modern experiences of the United Arab Emirates with their counterparts in date-producing countries as well as support international technical cooperation in various fields of the date's production chain.

[Click for more](#)

For all the details and topics that will be covered in the conference, click on the following link:

8<sup>th</sup>  
June***High-level Webinar: Ocean Biodiversity and Climate Change***

On the occasion of World Ocean Day and World Environment Day, EEG attended a webinar on 8<sup>th</sup> June entitled 'Ocean Biodiversity and Climate Change' organised by the British Embassy in the UAE. The purpose of the webinar was to bring together partners from the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United Nations, and the international community to reflect on the progress needed in marine ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in line with the global climate action. The webinar highlighted the importance of communities joining hands to preserve the natural environment to sustain the ecological balance of the blue planet. The meeting was enchanted by the presence of H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuami, UAE Minister of Climate and Environment. He clearly pointed out the importance of the ocean towards the global economy and gulf development plans. The irreversible signs of climate change such as rise in water temperature and coral destruction all drew a clear picture that humans are the main culprit of these environmental consequences. Furthermore, the modulation, regulation and policies taken by the UAE government in order to overcome this were mainly prioritised in this session. The importance of the ocean and the variety of energy sources available to shape the global economy were also emphasized. Our thriving oceanic minerals and marine organisms have been contaminated by the industrial revolution.

8<sup>th</sup>  
June***ZeeArts Virtual Panel Discussion: Fostering a Global Sustainable Lifestyle***

In the context of World Environment Day, ZeeArts in collaboration with "Yes No Solutions" and Alliance Francaise- Dubai organised a webinar: 'Fostering a Global Sustainable Lifestyle' on 8<sup>th</sup> June, with experts coming from different countries with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of recycle, reuse and reduce of Plastic. According to UNEP, plastic waste is now so ubiquitous in the natural environment that scientists have even suggested it could serve as a geological indicator of the Anthropocene era. EEG chairperson, along with four other experts, was invited as a panelist to open discussion on plastic pollution. She spoke on the efforts of Dubai that have been undertaken through the years, , like the Energy Strategy, Happiness, Tolerance, adoption of AI and other innovations, all geared towards making it a sustainable emirate. The idea has germinated in the visions of our leaders, and is actively propagated, supported and advanced by the leadership. She also highlighted that Dubai Expo's sustainability underpinning is another example of the vision. EEG chairpersons ended her session by giving a powerful message to the audience, emphasizing the importance of listening to stakeholders and assisting them in making their views heard. Embrace the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and concentrate on the ones that are relevant to your areas of emphasis and setup. Look for ways to create successful collaborations, with an emphasis on SDG 17 (Partnership and Collaboration). Create networks that connect governments, the commercial sector, civil society, and the community, and take use of existing synergies while also creating new ones as needed.

11<sup>th</sup>  
June***Construction Value-Chain Consultations***

EEG attended the webinar, 'If you build it: How governments, financing and territorial planning influence the construction value chain', organised by One Planet Network on 11<sup>th</sup> June. This webinar served as a kick-off to a broader set of consultations with experts from the construction sector in order to present innovative business and policy solutions to come up with a common approach for action. Globally, the construction sector is one of the fastest growing and most resource intensive. 25% per cent of water and 12% of potable water used globally are associated with building, mainly for construction processes and occupation of buildings. The sector is responsible for 39% of global GHG emissions, which is mainly associated to the operation of buildings, the conversion of land to be used for construction also contributes to biodiversity loss, deforestation and reduced carbon sequestration. The data presented by the IRP - One Planet network task force - demonstrated that the majority of both natural resource use and environmental impacts that take place along construction value chain occur at the manufacturing of construction material, the construction and the operation stages of the value chain. And yet, although natural resource use and environmental impacts occur at the manufacturing of construction stage of materials, the construction stage and the operation stage of the value chain; the solutions can be found at many different stages. The interactions within the systems mean that the operations and behaviours of actors at different stages of the construction value chain can have a significant influence on the operations and behaviours of actors at other stages of the value chain.

21<sup>st</sup>  
June***2<sup>nd</sup> Business Groups & Business Councils Roundtable Discussion***

EEG chairperson virtually attended the 2nd Business Groups & Business Councils Roundtable Discussion for 2021 organised by Dubai Chamber on 21<sup>st</sup> June. With the aim of ensuring business continuity and discussing the way forward to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, H.E. President & CEO of Dubai Chamber of Commerce affirmed that the Chamber continues to follow and study indicators related to commercial activity in the Emirate of Dubai. It strives to communicate with the local business community in order to be informed of the latest developments in this field. During the roundtable, the latest amendments to UAE visa and residency laws and procedure developments were discussed, along with recommendations and proposals that the Chamber has presented to relevant government authorities for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Dubai's business community. The discussion also revolved on the ownership and Emiratisation law of the companies in the UAE. It covered the benefits of Foreigners opening a company in the UAE as they will no longer need an Emirati shareholder or agent under changes to UAE company law. According to the Minister of Economy, this amended



Commercial Companies Law aims at boosting the country's competitive edge and is a part of UAE government efforts to facilitate doing business. The UAE announced the law allowing 100% foreign ownership of companies last year - one of several steps aimed at attracting foreign investment into the UAE, which was affected by the coronavirus crisis.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> 104<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council

**June** EEG attended a virtual meeting for the IUCN Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> June which was the 104th for the Council. The Director General (DG) presented his overall accountability report for the period from December 2020 through June 2021 including an update on the financial situation of IUCN. During the meeting, the DG briefly commented on his report and responded to questions/comments, as was practiced during the Council's meeting in December 2020. The Treasurer and the Chair of FAC were invited to comment, respectively sharing their recommendations, on the financial situation. Council members were also invited to watch the Chairs' audio-visual presentations of their respective Commission's report on outputs, outcomes, impact and resources which were made available in advance of the meeting. During the meeting, the Chairs briefly presented the highlights of their reports and responded to questions/comments received ahead of the meeting - as was practiced during previous Council meetings for the reports of SSC, WCEL and WCPA. The meeting ended with a set of recommendations from the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) and the Bureau to implement GCC's action plan on Council's Response to the External Review.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Interview for CEAA

**June** EEG chairperson was invited for a virtual interview with the Circular Economy Alliance Australia (CEAA) on the topic 'Inspired Conversations with Global Leaders' for featuring in CEAA future Global Leadership Programmes and Masterclasses' on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. (CEAA) is an Australian Incorporated entity that focusses on bringing together experts and leaders from government, industry, university, consulting and training organisations. CEAA harnesses and synergises the collective expertise available to deliver collaborative solutions, niche consulting, training and capacity building programmes in the area of environmental management and sustainability. EEG chairperson began the interview by sharing a brief background on EEG, ACSRN and EGBC highlighting the history and growth of these entities as well as the challenges that the organisations face and the importance of remaining resilient in facing the harsh times as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. EEG chairperson concluded her presentation by sending a strong message, emphasizing the significance of listening to stakeholders and aiding them in making their voices heard. Accept all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and focus on the ones that are most relevant to your focus and setup. Look for strategies to foster effective cooperation, with a focus on SDG 17: (Partnership and Collaboration). Create networks that connect governments, the private sector, civil society, and the general public, utilizing existing synergies while also developing new ones as needed.

## The 24<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Emirates Recycling Awards

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Emirates Environmental Group commemorated the green heroes of recycling and sustainability in the UAE on 6<sup>th</sup> June during the virtual ceremony organised on the occasion of World Environment Day under the kind patronage of H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Ras Al-Khaimah and Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation and Honorary Member of EEG. Emirates Environmental Group values the accomplishments, skills, challenges, and dedication to excellence in the UAE community. Through the run of Emirates Recycling Awards, it has set a benchmark for environmentally conscience people and organisations across the country and it has encouraged environmental awareness and action by awarding winners. In 2020, Emirates Environmental Group's multiple recycling and waste management programmes attracted more than 200 schools and up to 690 businesses. This achievement necessitates the acknowledgement of environmental activists who participated in EEG resource conservation efforts and worked tirelessly throughout the year to deliver excellent achievements. The winners of the six recycling campaigns were divided into three categories: Corporate, Academic and Individual.

### Paper Recycling Winners

- Nia Treeza Tony (Individual),
- Delhi Private School Sharjah (Academic),
- UAE Exchange Al Sajaa (Corporate)

### Plastic Recycling Winners

- Nia Treeza Tony (Individual),
- Ajman School for Secondary Education (Academic),
- Abela & Co Jebel Ali (Corporate)

### Can Recycling Winners

- Trisha Nikhil Kumar Sayani (Individual),
- New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi (Academic),
- Emirates Flight Catering (Corporate)

### Glass Recycling Winner

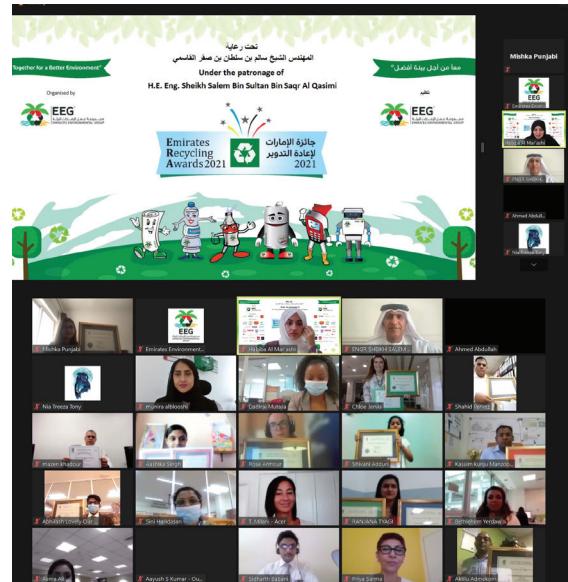
- Aashika Singh (Individual),
- New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi (Academic),
- Two Seasons Hotel & Apartments (Corporate).

### Toner Recycling Winners

- Mishka Punjabi (Individual),
- Sharjah Electricity & Water Authority (Corporate).

### Mobile Phones Recycling Winners

- Shivani Adduri (Individual),
- Our Own High School, Al Warqaa (Academic),
- Dubai Public Prosecution (Corporate)



EEG would like to celebrate all of this year's ERA 2021 Award winners on their outstanding efforts and achievements. We also thank H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qassimi for his support and words of encouragement to our participants and young student members. We'd like to express our gratitude to all of our sponsors and supporters, who helped make the event a huge success. The event was sponsored by McDonald's UAE, EPSON, Acer and Etihad Airways, it was supported by Almarai, Del Monte, L'Oréal, Nikai Group of Companies, ITL Cosmos, Nestle, Unilever, Brother International, Dabur, Wild Wadi Dubai Parks and Resorts.



## Neighbourhood Recycling Project

The 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of the “Neighbourhood Recycling Project” (NRP), opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June and is accepting registrations till 30th September. Engaging young people in organised efforts to promote environmental sustainability has significant ramifications for both the young people and their communities. A potential method to stimulate action of youth in environmental platforms is to train them to become environmental stewards and conscientious leaders who will advocate and promote environmental sustainability amongst their peers and the wider society.

To participate, please register: <https://forms.gle/6HnnRMjqcBbN9oMw5>

The current cycle has registered 206 participants in one month and the quantities collected are shown down below



## EEG Partners Up with Dabur on World Environment Day!

Ecosystem restoration can take many forms: growing trees, greening cities, rewilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts. For EEG, it is the act of recycling. This is the generation that can make peace with nature. This World Environment Day, EEG was delighted to roll out a special project with Dabur, one of the active corporate members, to make this day even more memorable. Individuals who drop off three empty bottles of Vatika goods to the EEG office for recycling will receive a full bottle of Vatika product in exchange. **This offer is valid for one whole year!** EEG encourages all sectors of society to be a part of this unique and one of a kind platform and contribute to achieving circular economy and protect the environment.

## Corporate News

### Tristar Group donates bus to Rashid Center for People of Determination

Tristar Group, a global integrated energy logistics company, donated a fully equipped bus to the Rashid Center for People of Determination in order to expand the center's bus fleet and provide safe transportation for students studying there, as well as to improve cooperation between the center and Tristar Group, with the goal of upgrading the center's capabilities and treatment and training programs. Mrs. Othman expressed her joy at the event, saying that it symbolizes the convergence of the public and private sectors and adds to the UAE's humanitarian message being strengthened and deepened. She said: "We have always been used to the UAE being a land of goodness, tolerance and love, and there is no doubt that what the Tristar Group has done reflects this message, which affirms the extent of commitment to the message of tolerance and goodness in the Emirates, and shows the extent to which cooperation has penetrated Emirati society groups, in order to help the segment of people of determination, so that they can get all the services they need to overcome the challenges they face."

[Click for more](#)

## One Modern World!

One Modern World has joined EEG as a new corporate member, they are a Dubai based start-up providing premium quality sustainable solutions for corporate organisations with a focus on reducing single use plastic. From eco-friendly disposable items to reusable products combined with consulting services. They are an end-to-end sustainable solution provider for businesses. In the past few months One Modern World has grown and is 100% women led. Their team has a wealth of experience in different industries as well as knowledge on sustainability which helps create a unique value proposition that makes One Modern World stand out from the crowd.

## UN News



### Restored Land, Healthy People, Green Recovery. Build Forward Better with Land-Centered Solutions

**UNCCD NEWS**

Land restoration is a proven cost-effective strategy that can jumpstart a green economic recovery. It creates green jobs, uplifts rural communities and delivers significant co-benefits for human health, biodiversity, and climate change. Land restoration offers multiple pathways towards a green recovery and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We have the tools to achieve this - responsible land governance, investments that protect and restore nature, and coherent, long-term policies and incentives - but we must learn from the past. COVID-19 is causing enormous damage and developing countries are among those hardest hit, compounding existing challenges of poverty, conflict, food and water shortages, and climate emergencies. But COVID-19 economic stimulus and recovery packages introduced around the world are on a scale never seen before. This presents policy makers with the golden opportunity to build forward better together, to recover from the virus and at the same time forge a more equitable and sustainable world to mitigate the crises of the future. However, it is calculated that only 2.5% of all Covid-19 recovery spending will have “positive green characteristics,” such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restoring natural capital.

[Click for more](#)





## Clean Seas Campaign Promotes the right to a Healthy Environment, including Plastic-free Oceans

On World Oceans Day 2021, UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign renewed its global efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution, with a focus on how individuals can use both national and international laws to push for change. The campaign aims to break humanity's addiction to unnecessary and avoidable plastic, nearly 11 million tonnes of which end up in the ocean annually. It was launched by UNEP in 2017 to help curb the flow of marine litter and plastic waste entering lakes, waterways, and oceans. Since then, 62 member States - covering 60% of the world's coastlines - have joined the campaign with ambitious pledges and commitments. The Clean Seas Campaign is calling on citizens across the world to reduce their plastic footprint and speak up for their right to a healthy environment, including pollution-free oceans using the hashtags #BeatPlasticPollution for #CleanSeas.

[Click for more](#)


## IUCN continues to move forward in actions for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources

IUCN NEWS

In celebration of World Environment Day on 5 June, IUCN reported on some of the outcomes of the Selva Maya Natural Resources Protection Project, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the German Development Bank. Selva Maya is considered the largest tropical forest in Meso America, whose diversity is safeguarded in 230 protected areas across 124,456.97 km<sup>2</sup>. Extending over Belize, northern Guatemala and south-eastern Mexico, it is a block of forest harbouring globally important biodiversity and major sites of archaeological and cultural heritage.

The project's main lines of work, which began in 2017, has focused firstly on promoting conservation and effective management of the 16 protected areas considered priorities in the frame of this project. The second line of work is improving connectivity among these protected areas by preventing and controlling forest fires, promoting the restoration of rural landscape and supporting sustainable production undertakings. Third, is to boost inter-institutional coordination through the Selva Maya Strategic Coordination Group (Spanish acronym GEC), which is composed of representatives of the three countries' protected area agencies working to maintain the forest's ecosystem functions and cultural values, and to promote the population's well-being.

[Click for more](#)

## Vacancies at the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office – UAE

Are you a UAE National looking for a job opening? On behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator, the United Nations office in the UAE is sharing 3 available positions that are open to join the United Nations Resident Coordinator team! The positions are based on the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The United Nations Resident Coordinator in the UAE is looking for UAE nationals to fill in the following job positions:

1. Development Coordination Officer, Programme Communications and Advocacy
2. Interagency Coordination and Partnerships Analyst, Development Coordination
3. Association Development Coordination Officer, Data Management and Results Monitoring & Reporting

The closing date is set on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Position details can be found through the following link:

[Click for more](#)

## Announcement for Vacancy: Executive Secretary, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of United Nations Environment Programme, D2-Montreal

Dear readers, there is an employment opening for you. On behalf of UNEP's Executive Director, we are pleased to inform that a high level position has been advertised, namely D-2 Executive Secretary of the Multilateral Fund for UNEP's Montreal Protocol Implementation. The Multilateral Fund (MFS) for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol is dedicated to reversing the deterioration of the Earth's ozone layer and phasing down hydrofluorocarbon controlled under the Montreal Protocol. The Fund Secretariat is administered by UNEP. The closing date is set on 3rd August. Position details can be found through the following link: <https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=156440&Lang=en-US>

### EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 2 new & 2 renewed corporate members in the month of June 2021

#### CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

|   |     |   |         |
|---|-----|---|---------|
| One Modern World (MLT Worldwide FZ LLE) | New | The Zoo & Aquarium Public Institution Al Ain (Al Ain Zoo) | Renewal |
| Olive Gaea FZE                          | New | Altadis Middle East FZCO                                  | Renewal |



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

- » **GHG Reductions 336 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)**
- » **Saving of 2,298 Million BTU of Energy**
- » **Saving of 577 m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space**
- » **Saving of 1,433 trees from being felled**
- » **Saving of 235 Gallons of Gasoline**



| PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (kg)  | Individuals                              | Quantity (kg)  |
|---|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| EEG has collected <b>82,797</b> kg of Paper from <b>186</b> participants during the month of June 2021, an increase of <b>2%</b> compared to May 2021. We urge our participants to be actively involved in our recycling campaigns this year to enable us to achieve our targets. The Top Collectors were:                          | Avis Uae Rent A Car Co LLC Dubai                  | 4,410          | Deep Shah                                | 3,685          |
|   | Ministry of Climate Change and Environment        | 3,750          | Ethan David Sathish                      | 1,050          |
|   | Wasl Properties AMSS Operations                   | 2,290          | Advaith Viswananth                       | 940            |
| CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (kg)  | Individuals                              | Quantity (kg)  |
| EEG collected <b>87</b> kg of Aluminum Cans from <b>17</b> participants during the month of June 2021, a decrease of <b>72%</b> compared to May 2021. We urge our participants to put more efforts to help us achieve the set targets for the year 2021. The top collectors for the month were:                                     | Tryp by Wyndham Dubai                             | 25             | -  | -              |
|   | Waldorf Astoria DIFC Hotel LLC                    | 18             |  |                |
|   | Delta Hotels by Marriott                          | 10             |  |                |
| PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (kg)  | Individuals                              | Quantity (kg)  |
| EEG has collected <b>6,871</b> kg of Plastic from <b>105</b> participants during the month of June 2021 a decrease of <b>12%</b> compared to May 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:   | Abela & Co Al Aweer                               | 1,432          | Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Al Dhanhani     | 250            |
|   | Abela & Co Jabel Ali                              | 520            | Maryam Bin Hammad                        | 108            |
|   | The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah                  | 366            | Zahra Vakil                              | 55             |
| TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (Pcs) | Individuals                              | Quantity (Pcs) |
| EEG collected <b>372</b> pieces of Toners from <b>9</b> participants during the month of June 2021, an increase of <b>123%</b> compared to May 2021. We encourage our participants to be more active in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:   | Sharjah Electricity & Water Authority             | 179            | -  | -              |
|   | Emirates Global Aluminium                         | 140            |  |                |
| MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN  | Companies   | Quantity (Pcs) | Individuals                              | Quantity (Pcs) |
| EEG collected <b>31</b> pieces of Mobile Phones from <b>4</b> participants during the month of June 2021, a decrease of <b>94%</b> compared to May 2021. We urge participants to support us and we encourage them to be active in the collection of this valuable material in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:               | Emirates Literature Foundation                    | 9              | Ethan David                              | 14             |
|   |   |                |  |                |
| GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (Kg)  | Individuals                              | Quantity (Kg)  |
| EEG has collected <b>8,470</b> kg of Glass Bottles from <b>38</b> participants during the month of June 2021, an increase of <b>73%</b> compared to May 2021. We thank our participants for their support to us and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2021 to help us achieve our targets. The Top collectors were: | Monviso Trading                                   | 3,030          | Aashika Singh                            | 45             |
|   | Al Maha a Luxury Collection Desert Resort and Spa | 3,000          | Saher Vidya Kumar                        | 30             |
|   | Delta Hotels by Marriott                          | 540            | Maryam Bin Hammad & Yashita Saxena (Tie) | 20             |
| E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (Kg)  | Individuals                              | Quantity (Kg)  |
| EEG has collected <b>81</b> kg of E-waste from <b>7</b> participants during the month of June 2021, a decrease of <b>80%</b> compared to May 2021. We encourage our participants to continue collecting in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:  | Serco Middle East                                 | 10             | Ethan David                              | 25             |
|   |   |                | Navneet Ravi Sankar                      | 17             |
|   |   |                | Rhythm Doshi                             | 13             |
| SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN   | Companies   | Quantity (Kg)  | Individuals                              | Quantity (Kg)  |
| EEG has collected <b>12</b> kg of Scrap metals from <b>1</b> participant during the month of June 2021, a decrease of <b>83%</b> compared to May 2021. We invite and encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme. The Top collector was:   | Dave Clausen Pais                                 | 12             |  |                |

EEG invites all its members & participants to intensify efforts for this year to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment and achieve the set targets for the above campaigns.

