

# EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



July 2021  
Issue 07

## VIRTUAL PLATFORM

3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion

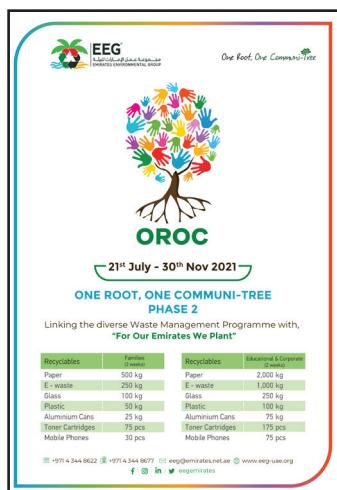
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

## SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING & THE FOOD ECONOMY

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## Upcoming Events



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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'oreal, 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 7).

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 (Read more on pages 8). 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.



1st  
June**THNK School of Creative Leadership Programme**

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Prime Minister of UAE, has set out a multi-year plan to make Dubai the best city in the world to live in. This includes a number of key priorities such as improving resource use efficiency, developing vibrant and inclusive communities, doubling green and leisure areas to provide a healthy environment for residents and visitors, provide sustainable and flexible means of mobility, foster greater economic activity, attract foreign investments to new sectors, enhancing environmental sustainability, safeguarding the emirate's cultural and urban heritage and developing a comprehensive legislation and planning governance model. Under the auspiciousness of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development, THNK School of Creative Leadership in Amsterdam, and in affiliation with UC Berkeley Haas, organised a "Leadership and Innovation Programme" with Emirati leaders, around the ambition to make Dubai the most livable city in the world by 2040. EEG Chairperson was one of the Expert Panel members to grace and share her expertise during the programme on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The discussion revolved around the Chairperson's leadership and how she manages her organisations, they discussed how to initiate pilot projects to evolve Dubai towards a resilient, sustainable and regenerative living system which honours its traditions and serves as a global beacon of inspiration and hope for positive change. They also discussed various topics such as "from ego to eco", the importance of listening to the community and individuals on the ground, water security, making traditional jobs 'cool' again, human-first in education, regenerative community development, bringing community together in regenerative projects for ecology and humans and community health and quality of life. The participants looked at the above priorities through a holistic lens, and challenged whether sustainability is enough and encouraged the participants to consider any innovation within the systemic context.

6<sup>th</sup>  
June**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference and POP Festival for Youth Led Climate Action 2021**

EEG chairperson was invited as a panelist at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference and POP Festival for Youth Led Climate Action virtual Panel Discussion hosted by POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The International Conference and POP Festival for Youth-Led Climate Action is the POP Movement's annual flagship event and platform for the youth who strive to build conviction on the dire need to mobilise action and build a social movement for combating the issue of climate change and environmental degradation. The goals of the POP Festival - sub-festival events in Africa and Middle East segment are:

1. Identify community actions and solutions being implemented in Africa and the Middle East.
2. Support networking and cross-learning of climate actions, solutions and challenges faced in the region and how to overcome them.
3. Amplify the voices of young people and communities from across the region and inspire them to take action and promote local leadership for peace and sustainability.

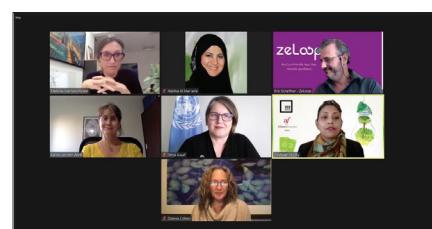
For the Middle East segment, the session gathered environmental experts, where EEG chairperson was one of them, to discuss on the topic 'Sustainable Cities'. The chairperson participated by sharing her views on sustainable urbanisation, what makes a city sustainable, remedial methods to deal with pollution with rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, checkpoints for citizens to ensure sustainable living in the Middle East, and finally the drawbacks or benefits of building a sustainable city. The session was informative and EEG looks forward to what this festival will bring about in the near future.

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

[Click for more](#)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.



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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>  
June**104<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council**

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>  
June**Interview for CEAA**

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.



## Students Workshops for Cambridge International School

EEG held a special students workshop for Junior and Sub-senior students of Cambridge International School - Dubai on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June. EEG believes in the importance of educating the youth as the future of the planet and environment is in their hands. Cambridge International School has been an Academic Member of EEG since 2019. Considering the impact of the pandemic which has caused a big gap in socialisation among students due to quarantine and distancing, the activities conducted were designed to help them socialise and interact, while at the same time educate them on the situation as well. The activities were based on the SDG's (3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) to make them think about the environment and to instil a sense of responsibility towards self and the planet. The activities were not only focusing on the SDG's but also challenged several areas of cognition, from logic to visualisation. They were fun-filled activities including Quizzes, poetry making and art. The workshop was a success and we stand ready to engage and cater to our academic members in the future.

## Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a: Live Session on Recycling

EEG held an informative webinar session on the topic of recycling with the students of its academic member the 'Our Own High School', Al Warqa'a on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The session started with a brief explanation on the importance of recycling. The summer action programme, the 'Neighbourhood Recycling Project' was then introduced to engage with the students and help them adapt to greener practices. The Neighbourhood Recycling Programme calls upon the student community to prepare flyers and use it to contact 20 neighbouring families to collect one or more recyclable material that EEG takes on board in a span of two weeks and reach the set targets. Once targets are achieved, the participants get the opportunity to plant an indigenous tree and get a certificate as well. The programme was rolled out on 1<sup>st</sup> June and will conclude on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. EEG looks forward to the participation of the youth in the UAE to help them transition smoothly to a greener future.

## EEG Student Member Wins the Princess Diana Awards!

Vidyuth Balaji, a 9-year-old student member of EEG, has gone about his life to create and sustain positive change, we are delighted to share with our readers that he has received 'The Diana Award', a great honour a young person can get for social and humanitarian work. Established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Award is given out by the charity of the same name and has the support of both her sons, The Duke of Cambridge and The Duke of Sussex. Vidyuth is known among his classmates as an "Eco-Hero," as he recycles both paper and e-waste. As part of his commitment to safeguard the environment, he recycled 10,339 kilos of paper and planted 20 trees with the Emirates Environmental Group in 2020. EEG commends Vidyuth on this latest success, and we look forward to seeing even more great things from him and we hope his achievement will inspire the other student members of EEG to mount different summits of excellence and sustainability.

## 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

UNEP NEWS

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 10 new student members & 12 renewed student members & 1 academic member in the month of June 2021

#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Dakshesh Ravi	New	Sthairya K. Shetty	Renewal
Shobhit Sinha	New	Jaivardhan Nawali	Renewal
Maryann Nicole Gabriel Khare	New	Anitej Chanda	Renewal
Anisha Sheriff	New	Christy Susan Charls	Renewal
Vihaan Prasad Khasnis	New	Advaith Vishwanath	Renewal
Anshuman Satish	New	Sahana Kumar	Renewal
Yeleswarapu Satya Sai Yashaswi	New	V.P. Aishwaryaa	Renewal
Hiya Kachhwaha	New	V.P. Divyalakshmi	Renewal
Aradhana Suresh	New	Jay Bhavik Shah	Renewal
Sarika Baburajan Pillai	New	Rudraksh Bhadari	Renewal
Diya Unni	Renewal	Sanjit Saji	Renewal

#### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

-	-	The Winchester School, Jebel Ali	Renewal
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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	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	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:	Latifa School For Girls	4,470	Deep Shah	3,685
	Oasis International School Al Ain	2,850	Ethan David Sathish	1,050
	Private International English School Abu Dhabi	2,740	Advaith Viswananth	940
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	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:	American School of Dubai, Barsha	7	-	-
	Our Own High School Boys - Al Warqa'a	5	-	-
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	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:	Ajman School for Secondary Education	245	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Al Dhanhani	250
	Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a	160	Maryam Bin Hammad	108
	American School of Dubai, Al Barsha	109	Zahra Vakil	55
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	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:	The Millenium School	30	-	-
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	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:	American University of Sharjah	70	Aashika Singh	45
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	65	Saher Vidya Kumar	30
	The Alpha School	35	Maryam Bin Hammad & Yashita Saxena (Tie)	20
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	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:	-	-	Ethan David	25
	-	-	Navneet Ravi Sankar	17
	-	-	Rhythm Doshi	13
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
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
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
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.				
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.				

