

A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY

# MULTAQANA



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## Greetings!

The SSI team would like to extend its warmest welcome with the installation of the 18th Issue of its Multaqana Newsletter. The year 2019 has been proclaimed as the "Year of Tolerance" in accordance with the late Sheikh Zayed's belief in tolerance to other cultures and peoples.

Sustainability is a complex concept that is intertwined with every aspect of our life. Since culture is one of the pillars that sustainability encompasses, this year emphasizes our role in sustaining our culture and belief while living in harmony with people of different beliefs.

In fact, the 11th Sustainability Goal proposed by the UN revolves around inclusivity and safeness within communities. This idea goes hand in hand with the tolerance agenda put in place by the government. In this issue, the SSI team presents the SDG Help Desk that will provide more information on this goal, alongside all the other goals introduced.

The issue also celebrates the success of its schools on both national and international levels, as well as introduces portals and platforms to encourage students to participate in competitions, debates and international dialogues.

With that, the SSI team hopes that this year is filled with more successful achievements that reflect the values and morals of this country.

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## Botanical Adventure Winners

The Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, Abu Dhabi has organized a ceremony to award the winners of the Botanical Adventures competition. Guest speakers from the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi were present to talk about the different plants native to the UAE and the significance of conserving them. The competition was created to link students to the nature surrounding them while simultaneously raising awareness on the native plants of the UAE.

A total of 603 entries were submitted from 32 schools. From the Abu Dhabi district, the winners were from:

### Abu Dhabi:

- Mayoor Private School,
- Al Ekhlas Private school
- Abu Dhabi Indian school.



### Al Ain:

- New Indian model school
- Mohammed bin Khaled school
- Al Itihad National Private school.

### Al Dhafrah:

- Bedaa Al Mutawa School
- Al Marfa cycle I School
- Al Mothaida School



## Dugong Workshop for Abu Dhabi Teachers

As mentioned in a previous issue, EAD has collaborated with TOTAL to prepare a workshop aimed at educating teachers on Dugongs and the need to protect them.

During the workshop held in Abu Dhabi, a total of 35 teachers from multiple schools have attended.

The SSI team concludes the workshop as a success, with hopes to seeing teachers incorporate dugong protection topics into school subjects using the different methods showcased at the workshops.



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## Dugong competition

In commorancy with the Dugong workshops, we launched the Dugong competition. the goal is to enhance awareness of the threats that Dugongs face and the efforts undertaken to conserve them, the competition mainly encourages students to prepare campaigns to spread awareness on these topics. The competition launched on 1 Feburary, 2019 and carried on until 30th March , 2019. Over 47 students participated in the competition and the winner were from:

### Abu Dhabi

- First place: Dar Al Uloom Private school
- Second place: Dar Al Uloom Private School
- Third Place: Sheikh khalifa bin zayed bangladesh islamia school

### Al Ain

- First place: New indian model school
- Second place: Alain Juniors School (sskumar80)
- Third place: Grace valley school (hazeem\_shan)

### Al Dhafrah

- First place: Bayah school
- Second place: Al Shumookh School
- Third Place: Al Shumookh School



## Connect with Nature

In an effort to bridge a connection between our youth and the country's natural heritage and land, the Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi has teamed up with Emirates Nature-WWF to bring you the "Connect with Nature" program. This program aims to encourage the new generation to go out and discover more about the UAE's nature while nurturing the necessary leadership skills for them to carry the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan.

By experiencing first-hand the different habitats and species inhabiting the UAE, people can develop a passion for the natural heritage of the country. The program offers a wide range of outdoor activities and events for interested people to participate in. The website's Activities page is updated regularly with new opportunities for people to register in and participate.

The website also offers a segment called "Citizen Science" where people are encouraged to volunteer and collect environmental information and expand on our knowledge of the UAE's biodiversity. Interested people can download the iNaturalist app and participate in the projects listed.

All of this information and more can be viewed on the program's website:

<https://www.connectwithnature.ae/>



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## Global Canvas 2019: A Success Story

In an effort to raise awareness on the vulnerability of dugongs, a marine species whose habitat is polluted by human activities, students from the GEMS American Academy in Abu Dhabi created an art display featuring a dugong exposed to pieces that threaten its existence.

The display was submitted for the Global Canvas - Children's Art Competition organized by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, a wildlife conservation charity. The theme for this year's art competition was "Habitats of the World".

Students from GEMS American Academy decided to focus on dugongs, seeing that the UAE is home to the second largest population of dugongs in the world. Due to the defenseless nature of dugongs, they are protected by Federal Law No. 23 and 24. The Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi banned fishing by nets in Abu Dhabi to conserve marine animals, as these nets pose extreme dangers to dugongs.



## Zayed Sustainability Prize

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced in 2008 the commence what was formerly known as the Zayed Future Energy Prize, now known as the Zayed Sustainability Prize.

Since then, the award has been commenced annually to commemorate the sustainable legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed. Over the past decade, the award has garnered much recognition and now proudly represents Sheikh Zayed's vision to an ever-growing number of people and organizations all over the globe.

As of 2018, the award encourages participants to present innovative sustainability ideas and solutions over a wide scope of fields, as opposed to previously mainly to renewable energy fields. This came with the name change, as sustainability issues are more complex and cannot be addressed within energy fields alone.

As entries are only accepted till June, the SSI team is encouraging its students and schools to consider participating in this competition. This will help them build a network with all kinds of people in the sustainability field as well as gain insight into current issues and solutions. Additionally, winners receive an award alongside funds to further their ideas and proposals within their given field.

More information on the Zayed Sustainability Prize and how to enter can be accessed with the link below:

<https://zayedsustainabilityprize.com/en>

[sustainableschools.ead.ae](https://sustainableschools.ead.ae)



## Resource: Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk

Created in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 thematic development goals with 169 targets. The SDGs are strategies tailored to end poverty and other deprivations through improving economy, healthcare and education while also protecting natural resources from depletion. The strategies also tackle climate change and land protection.

The SDG Help Desk is a one-stop online platform that serves as a gateway to a wide range of knowledge and analytical products, including SDG data portals, toolboxes, e-learning courses, multimedia resources, technical advice and opportunities for peer-learning and South-South cooperation.

This portal was chosen to be one of the resources for this issue as it gives students and interested parties the opportunity to learn and expand their knowledge about a wide variety of things, engage in online forums, or collect information for research purposes.

Students interested in accessing the Help Desk through the link below:

<http://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/>



## Sustainable Development Goals **HELPDESK**

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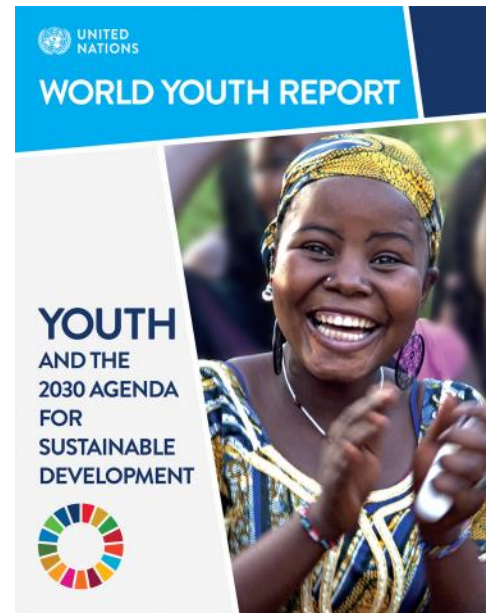




## Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The second resource chosen is the World Youth Report for 2018 “Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the report highlights the combined efforts of the 2030 agenda alongside current youth development affairs.

The 2030 agenda was created in 2015 in order to eradicate poverty and give all people equal rights. This report provides insight into the role of young people in sustainable development in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related frameworks. The report features the crucial role of young people in implementing sustainable development efforts. This report could motivate the youth to be more engaging in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



Access to the report is below:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2018.html>

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## Proposed Field trips

### Masdar and Shams Power Company

With one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions, Abu Dhabi has set out on a two-decade diversification plan to include renewable energy sources to meet its energy needs. One of the first steps towards achieving this goal is building the Shams I power plant.

Located in the western region of the Abu Dhabi Emirate, 120 km southwest of Abu Dhabi, Shams I is considered one of the biggest plants in the world and evidently the first of its kind in the Middle East region. The plant is set to produce 100MW of electricity from solar energy annually, reducing CO2 emissions by 175,000 ton every year, which is the equivalent of planting 1.5 million trees.

Schools are encouraged to take their students to these renewable energy plants, as they are set to be deployed as the main energy sources to supply the country with. Students can experience first-hand how these plants operate.

The bus tour will give students information on the mechanism of operation of the plant. Walking tours are conducted for small groups. Visits to schools in the vicinity by the plant officials can also be arranged.

To book a tour, please contact the organization at least two weeks ahead to facilitate approval of your visit. You will receive an access form, location map and the agenda for the visit on approval.

Contact information for Shams Power Company:

Phone: +971 894 6000

Email: [info@shampowerco.ae](mailto:info@shampowerco.ae)

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## Beeah UAE, Sharjah & Center of waste management. Abu Dhabi

A second field trip location can be to a waste management or a recycling facility. Considering the theme of the trip and the type of locations, this trip is best suited for high school students. Students are generally aware of how to manage their waste, but this trip takes a step further to show what happens to the waste they segregated in a recycling center. Teachers can then link what they learned from the trip to science subjects as well as business subjects.

Students in Abu Dhabi can head out to the Center of Waste Management in Abu Dhabi. A visit to this center will show students how the city authorities deal with the waste generated in the city.

If you are interested in visiting any of the recycling facilities in Abu Dhabi, contact the Center for Waste Management, Abu Dhabi.

Students in Sharjah or nearby emirates could head out to Bee'ah UAE in Sharjah .Bee'ah has several recycling facilities, from material recovery facilities to medical waste recycling facilities. Schools can even get their waste recycled through their Tandeef Office and School Recycling Facility.

If a school is interested in taking their students to one of Bee'ah's facilities, contact them through the information below.

Phone: +971 6 572 9000

Email: [info@beeah.ae](mailto:info@beeah.ae)

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# Education for Sustainability

We look forward receiving your feedback about our quarterly newsletter.

To contact us:

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Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi  
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