



Inside SSI

A Forum for Educators
of Sustainability

WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

Editor's Column

December 2020 / Edition 25

Everyone is looking forward to the winter break from December 13, 2020 until Jan 3, 2021. Students can enjoy time exploring the outdoors, the cooler weather, and engaging in green activities! After the break, one of Abu Dhabi's most important sustainability events will take place.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) 2021 will explore a series of high-level virtual events including social, economic, and technological opportunities to achieve a 'green recovery' post COVID-19.

It will take place between 16-23rd January 2021 and will feature several youth-led events. More on the event can be found here <https://abudhabisustainabilityweek.com/en/explore-adsw-2021> !

Also, after the winter break, the Sustainable Schools Initiative team will be reaching out to schools to jumpstart the new activities and exciting virtual sessions for 2021.

To stay informed with all the latest updates, visit our Facebook and Instagram pages @SSI_UAE and stay tuned for new surprises coming your way!

In the meantime, please feel free to email us at sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae to join the SSI network and connect with likeminded teachers in our SSI network!

Stay safe and enjoy the beautiful weather!
SSI Team

Sponsor's Welcome

bp is an integrated energy company, providing innovative solutions to improve people's lives. Headquartered in London and established in the Middle East for over a century, it aims to help the world reach net zero on emissions. As a proud partner of SSI for over 10 years, bp supports nurturing the knowledge and means to address global environmental issues through educating younger generations, and shares the concerns of our community's stakeholders and believes that actions today can solve long term environmental challenges.

bp's purpose is reimagining energy for people and our planet, and the company and encourages actions, that will lead to a healthier and safer tomorrow.



German International School in Abu Dhabi joins SSI Network

This month, we welcome the German International School in Abu Dhabi (GISAD) to the SSI school network! GISAD was founded in 1976, with only 16 students and 3 teachers. Fast forward to 2020, they have about 230 students and are officially recognized as part of the German International School Network. The school has a program named, GISAD Goes Green, aiming to pave an eco-friendlier path and make the UAE environment more sustainable.

The students and teachers raise awareness about the threats to our environment and what can be done differently to reduce waste. Their initiatives include recycling single-use plastic bottles, which are later used to create clothing and collecting and analyzing paper waste in the school. We are delighted to welcome GISAD on board and look forward to supporting them in their greener journey.



SSI students joined Sustainable Campus Debate, "Do we need incentives to become sustainable?"

6 students from the SSI network, Al Ittihad National Private School and Mayoor Private School in Abu Dhabi, joined the debate entitled "Do we need incentives to become sustainable". The online debate featured two views on incentives and their positive and negative effects on residents and the environment.

The pupils from Al Ittihad National Private School (INPS) including Maitha Al Mansoori, Jameela Baslaib, and Sara Al Hammadi, participated in the virtual session and supported the view to provide incentives for sustainable actions. The session continued with a group from Mayoor Private School, Anam Ahmad and Atmika Sarathi, along with Fatima Al Shemmari from INPS, who shared their view against incentives with supporting examples of impacts on the environment.

SSI visits Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital

The popular series Nature-inspired Tours and Talks has filmed in two established locations, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital. The visit to Al Wathba featured Moti Azpurua alongside experts from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Shahid Bashir Khan, Scientist in Avifauna Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity, and Maitha Saeed Almansoori, Assistant Scientist in Flora Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity, where they discovered fun environmental facts. They toured among the wetlands, explored the plants, and watched the beautiful flamingos closely in the bird hideout.

At the Abu Dhabi Falcon hospital, Moti joined one of the most seasoned Falcon experts in the UAE, Dr. Margit Gabriele Muller, Executive Director at ADFH, where they strolled through the various facilities, fed and held falcons, and learned about the birds inside the aviary. Be on the look out for more updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages @SSI_UAE!



Green Achiever

Abu Dhabi Indian School – Water Summit 2020

During this school term, Abu Dhabi Indian School organized an online two-day summit, entitled 'Save Water Summit', which aired live on YouTube. The summit included four panel discussions, aiming to increase awareness about the health of our planet and concerns regarding water supplies. Robust viewership was achieved, with over 20 schools participating from both the UAE and India.

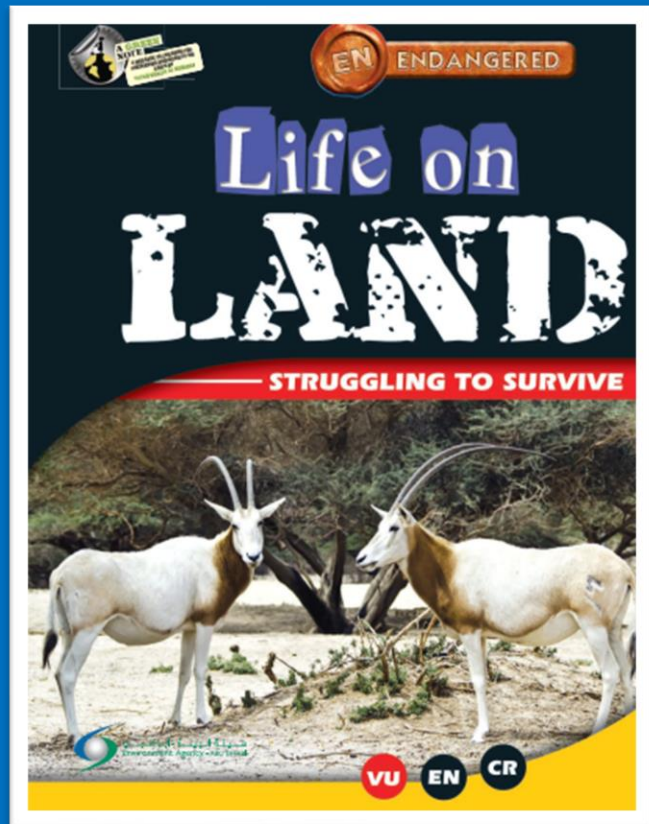
The first day featured key-note speaker Murlee Thummarukudy, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction at UNEP, who spoke about the importance of tackling the water crisis head on through awareness and action. He further talked about the effects of climate change and carbon footprints on water.

On the second day, Dr. Mohamed Dawoud, Advisor - Water Resources at Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, gave a detailed presentation about the water crisis which may impact the UAE. Students also participated with original songs, dances, animated videos, as well as a puppet show.



All Things Sustainable

This month's collection of "All Things Sustainable" features the latest environmentally themed books to keep everyone entertained during their winter break.



Life on Land book

Life on land, an original production from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, takes readers on the amazing journey to discover terrestrial animals and their characteristics. Throughout this book, you will discover how land is home to countless incredible animals, inside the green forests, dark caves, hot deserts, and many other areas. Whether they are herbivores or carnivores, you can explore the importance of terrestrial animals as they help balance ecosystems. You can also learn about the threats these creatures face, and how their homes are in danger due to climate change and pollution.

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/storage/Post/files/22c1f4612e518ceaa300f05ea16a508d.pdf>

What's Next?

Stay tuned for updates on meeting the experts, virtual tours, panel discussions and lots of other interactive activities. Join our upcoming sessions which include:

Sidr Tree Journey

Date: December 14,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

The Sidr Tree is one of the oldest native trees in the Arabian Peninsula! Ancient Egyptians used its wood to build palaces and temples, Palestinian farmers used it for medicine for centuries, and UAE refers to it as “The Tree of Life” for its fruit. Tune in to learn more about this evergreen tree!

Registration: Send an email to sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae

Stones of Arabia Journey

Date: December 16,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

Stones play a crucial role in the natural environment, and heritage of the UAE. They were commonly used for traditional tools, which can be found in museums today. Join us learn about the 30 different kinds of stones in UAE and understand the significance that Emirati forefathers valued so highly.

Registration: Send an email to sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae

Live with SCI - Climate change and Biodiversity

Date: December 17,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:15pm

Join university students from Sustainable Campus Initiative and Green Youth Majlis members, who will raise their voice to express concerns regarding climate change and present their innovative solutions.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>

The Dhub Journey

Date: December 21,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

The Dhub is a native spiny-tailed lizard, commonly found in the UAE & Arabian Peninsula. Tune in to discover the ‘mini-dinosaur of the desert’ and explore the journey across the hot and dry ecosystem, and all the challenges along the way!

Registration: Send an email to sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae

The Salt Journey

Date: December 23,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

In a land covered by sands, stones, and sea, the UAE has abundant natural resources including the mineral salt. It preserves food, cleans surfaces, and even heals sicknesses. Come along with us to discover salt’s origins, its wonderful uses throughout history and in modern times, where it can be found and even why it is so beneficial to humans and the environment.

Registration: Send an email to sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae

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