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....And more.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the latest issue of Multakana!

The Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) has had a superb beginning this year with many training workshops and also the International Forum being held in the first quarter!

The year 2014 marks the end of the Decade of Educating for Sustainability and promises to be an eventful year for us! The first of the exciting events scheduled for the year is already around the corner, i.e., the Eco Club Summit (check out details on Page 8)!

We have received proposals/plans and first Audit Reports for this year from most of the SSI schools. If you haven't sent yours, do it soon! Check out important dates for the next quarter on Page 2!

We have also decided to give Multakana a new look! Do let us know what you think about it. We would love your suggestions and contributions for this newsletter! Send us articles, photos, letters, news reports, anything related to sustainability in your school and around Abu Dhabi. We will publish them in our next issue. We look forward to your emails!

Enjoy the issue and share it with as many people as you can, so that everyone learns about our initiative and appreciates the need for environment education!

- EAD SSI Team

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Articles

Important Dates to Remember in Quarter 2, 2014:

15th April:

Last Day for
Poster/Presentation
Submission for the
Eco Summit

22nd April:

Earth Day

29th & 30th April:

The Eco Club Summit

30th April:

SSI Report Submission
Date

22nd May:

World Biodiversity
Day

5th June:

World Environment
Day

8th June:

World Oceans Day

What Did We Learn From the International Forum?

The International Forum – “Educating for Sustainability” was hosted by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi in partnership with Abu Dhabi Education Council on 10th February, 2014 at Hotel Sheraton, Abu Dhabi. It highlighted the achievements in the field of environmental education within the emirate of Abu Dhabi during the “United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development”.

This forum saw an attendance of 350 diverse delegates, not only teachers, Coordinators, and Principals of the SSI Schools, but also enthusiasts from the community, business sectors and NGOs. It is difficult to summarise all the excellent comments and inspirational stories that were discussed during the forum in a few paragraphs. However, there was one phrase in particular that caught everyone’s attention: **“Birds eat cows”** – this was with reference to a story illustrating how things are not always what they seem and sometimes, a **“fresh perspective”** is required. If we are able to ensure that everyone on this one planet has an equal share of everything he/she needs, for only a single second, this would **not** equate to sustainability. It needs to last forever, and as the delegates were reminded, we do not have forever in order to arrive at the solution. Keeping this in mind Eleven Principles on Educating For Sustainability were distilled from the collective words of wisdom during the forum and are offered for consideration. The following is the list of the 11 Principles: (Please check out the Events Page on <http://www.sustainableschools.ae> for more details)

1. Educating for Sustainability must be a life-long process.
2. Educating for Sustainability must be integrative across *curriculae*.
3. Educating for Sustainability must be inclusive of all sectors of society.
4. Educating for Sustainability should embrace a systems approach to learning.
5. Educating for Sustainability should encourage a sense of place.
6. Educating for Sustainability needs to embrace balanced values.
7. Educating for Sustainability should be experiential.
8. Educating for Sustainability should catalyse change.
9. Educating for Sustainability should challenge to question, inspire and change.
10. Educating for Sustainability should be adaptive to new ideas and technologies.
11. Educating for Sustainability needs a policy framework.

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Glimpses of The International Forum



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Congratulations to Al Shumookh School for winning the first prize in a competition organized by the "Arab Forum for Environment and Development - AFED" with the magazine "Environment and Development". The competition was to create the best Environmental School page on Facebook, as a tool for Implementation of Activities and Information from the guide - 'The environment in the school', issued by AFED and the 'Eco Club Manual'- issued by EAD for the SSI Schools

Check out their Facebook Page here:
[Al Shumookh School](#)

If you have any such news to share in the next issue, contact us before 10th May 2014!

The Zayed Future Energy Prize

The mission of the Zayed Future Prize is to be the preeminent international prize in recognizing achievements in renewable energy and a catalyst for innovation in sustainability'.

The Zayed Future Energy Prize came to fruition as a result of the vision of the late Ruler of Abu Dhabi and Founding Father of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. In 2008, at the World Future Energy Summit, His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the UAE, announced The Zayed Future Energy Prize, to honour his father's legacy of environmental stewardship.

The Prize for the Global High School category is US\$ 500,000 – Total value (Five hundred thousand dollars)! It is divided amongst 5 Global High Schools in 5 different regions of the world, the Americas, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and Asia. The winning school in each region receives US\$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars)! The primary aim of the High School category is to inspire future generations across the globe and instill an ethos of sustainability from an early age, including an appreciation of issues in energy, and broader sustainability.

The schools are judged on the following qualities:

- Impact
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Long Term Vision

Do you want your school to win? Find more information here:

www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com

The Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bangladesh Islamia School, Abu Dhabi, were the winners in the Asia region for 2013, and used the prize money to install solar panels in their school. If you think your school is eligible for this award, make sure you register on their website!



More from the
Al Ain Zoo Activity by
Al Talea,
Al Muraijib,
Al Khatim Schools

National Environment Day Celebration

Let's see how Al Talea School, Al Muraijib School and Al Khatim School celebrated National Environment Day!

Al Muraijib School and Al Khatim School celebrated National Environment Day with their Lead School, Al Talea School on 4th February 2014.

The three schools came together for an activity to spread awareness in Al Ain Zoo, which was visited by around 3000 people that day! It was a day full of family activities with workshops on Reuse and Recycling.

The students displayed posters and told the visitors about recycling grey water and using it in gardens. There were also workshops on reducing electricity usage and using *energy efficient lights*. The students also enacted a skit on sustainability for the visiting kids. The aim was to help people understand that sustainability starts from home! The schools then announced a competition for the families: whoever reduces their monthly usage of electricity and water, would be declared winner, based on their bill! Great job! Al Talea, Al Muraijib, Al Khatim!!



Do you want your story to be published in SSI TALES?
Send us a 200 word description of your School's Story to SustainableSchools@ead.ae with **SSI Tales as the Subject!** For the next issue of **Multakana**, please send your entries before **10th May 2014**



Contributed by - Ms. Sameera Albraiki (ATS), Ms. Mariam Aldarmaki (AMS), Ms. Reema Ismail (AKS), Ms. Shema Abdul Aziz (AKS)

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More from the Poster Competition in Al Adhwa School

Save Water



Save Earth



National Environment Day Celebration

Let's see how Al Adhwa Private School Celebrated National Environment Day!

The Al Adhwa Private School celebrated the National Environment Day in their school on 4th February 2014! This was done as part of their eco club activities. 50 members of the eco club, including students and teachers came together for this celebration. The day started with brief speeches by the Principal, a teacher and a student, stressing the need to reduce food waste in the school and community. The Eco Club members also planted some trees and collected excess paper and plastic bottles from the school in the two short breaks!

As an ongoing activity since the beginning of the term, the eco club members have also collected excess white water, which is now being used for watering their plants.



Contributed By – Ms. Lolita and Ms. Cincy, Al Adhwa Private School

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Meeting the Zayed Future Prize Winners:

Organized by EAD, our SSI energy audit students got a chance to interact with the seven Zayed Future Energy Prize winning students on 21st January 2014. The international winners were as excited as our SSI students, to discuss the sustainability methods used in their respective schools. Around 105 students from 22 schools in Abu Dhabi attended this meet. The SSI students learned more about the best practices used by these winning schools.



Participation in the Cleanup Campaign Organized by Waste Free Environment (WFE), Borouge

150 students from SSI schools participated in the cleanup campaign on Hameem Beach on 20th February, organized by WFE. WFE is a community-based environmental initiative that aims to inspire and empower individuals and communities in the Gulf region to clean-up and conserve their environment.

A dolphin carcass, tyres, wood, broken pipes and hundreds of used tins were just some of the rubbish collected in a clean-up of three beaches.

The Waste Free Environment event was held to mark the UAE National Environment Day!

SSI Teachers attend the Panel Discussion on ‘Green Economy’

Many SSI Teachers attended the Arabic Panel Discussion on ‘Green Economy, Innovation and Sustainability’ held to mark the 17th UAE National Environment Day! The panelists discussed “Green Economy” and the need to think differently about what we are doing as businesses, as society and as individuals to help improve the chances of sustainability in the long run.

THE ECO CLUB SUMMIT 2014



Are you ready for the first of its kind, "Student Sustainability Conference" in Abu Dhabi?
Gear up for the most unique event of 2014!

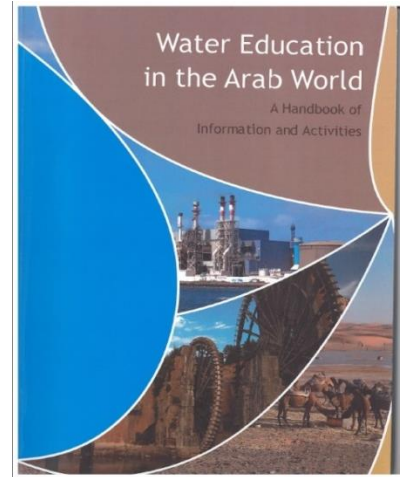
Observing Environmental Days

World Water Day

EAD recently launched the 'Water Education in the Arab World' book on the World Water Day, 22nd March.

Read a brief on 'Thirsty Energy: Securing Energy in a Water-Constrained World' by the World Bank [here](#).

Excerpts from the brief: Significant amounts of water are needed in almost all energy generation processes, from generating hydropower, to cooling and other purposes in thermal power plants, to extracting and processing fuels. Conversely, the water sector needs energy to extract, treat and transport water. Both energy and water are used in the production of crops, including those used to generate energy through biofuels. Today, more than 780 million people lack access to potable water, and over 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity. At the same time, estimates show that by 2035, global energy consumption will increase by 35%, while water consumption by the energy sector will increase by 85%.



How did you celebrate World Water Day in your school? We would love to hear about it! Do let us know before 10th May 2014 and we will publish it in our next issue of Multakana!

Earth Day

EAD will be commemorating Earth Day with the Live Judging of the last activity of the Annual Environment Competition (AEC), 2014! Like every year, the response for AEC has been amazing, thanks to all the participating schools, teachers, students, and parents! The theme this year was **Think. Eat. Save.** This year, we judged:

Seven Categories

- 575 Registered Schools
- 21 Registered Colleges

Seven Emirates

- 1928 Entries
- 39 Professional Judges

Seven Months

- 8 Workshops
- 90 Winners

How did you celebrate Earth Day? Share your event with us! Do let us know before 10th May 2014 and we will publish it in our next issue of Multakana!

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Observing Environmental Days



Join World Environment Day Video-blogging Competition!

Put your creativity and video skills to work in defense of the small islands. Capture in an engaging, visually creative, two-minute video what World Environment Day 2014 is all about and get a chance to win a trip to a stunning island to cover a UN event!

The World Environment Day 2014 theme is about Small Islands Development States (SIDS). **Raise your voice, not the sea level.** WED 2014 will shine the spotlight on Small Islands and their unique development challenges and successes. Climate change is foremost among these challenges. Our Abu Dhabi Island definitely has the issue of Climate Change affecting our Sea levels and we have already begun to see signs here!

This Competition is looking for original and engaging ways of delivering this message through a video - a short and creative movie of no more than 2 minutes that can be made with your mobile phone or home camera and in your own language. You don't need to be a professional movie maker or to write a film script, but you have to try to find the most interesting and universally appealing way of telling the WED message to the world!

The exciting news is that the best video will be chosen by Hollywood Star and [UNEP Goodwill Ambassador](#) Don Cheadle, and the winner will travel to one of the world's paradise islands to video blog for a major UN event. You have until April 4th to [send them the link](#) to your video! Click [here](#) to learn more about the competition and to participate!



World Environment Day
5 June 2014

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SSI schools can now proudly state their commitment by the displaying the banners given by EAD!
These customized banners have reached almost all the schools by now.
Do send us photographs of the banners in your school lobby, so that we can publish them in the next issue of Multakana!



From Awareness To Action!

Our school has joined hands with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) to participate in the Sustainable Schools Programme.

We work towards:
Auditing and addressing our own environmental impact.
Empowering our students to reach out to their neighborhood community through an Eco Club.
Capacity building our teachers to current best practices in environmental education.
Providing experiential learning for our students through field trips.



Support Your School
Al Maseera School
To know more, visit www.sustainableschools.ae

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من التوعية إلى العمل

تشارك مدرستنا بالتعاون مع هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي في برنامج المدارس المستدامة.



تعمل على:
تحقيق ورصد تأثيراتنا البيئية وإدارتها بأفضل الأساليب، تمكين وتعزيز مهارات التواصل المجتمعي لدى طلابنا من خلال إنشاء وإدارة النادي البيئي، بناء قدرات معلمينا من خلال المشاركة في ورش العمل والتدريبات البيئية، إتاحة فرصة التعلم لطلابنا عن طريق التجربة والتعايش المباشر من خلال الرحلات الميدانية.

أدعم مدرستك
مدرسة الصقور
لمعرفة المزيد يرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني:
www.sustainableschools.ae


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أدعم مدرستك
مدرسة قطار الندى
لمعرفة المزيد يرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني:
www.sustainableschools.ae




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Support Your School
Aisha BintAbi Baker School
To know more, visit www.sustainableschools.ae

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For Your Information

Check out some Interesting Links:

Are you interested in a Multimedia Teacher Education Programme? Check out '[Teaching And Learning For A Sustainable Future](#)', an online course by UNESCO!

Check out an interesting article on Promoting Video Conferencing for Education, by [Greening The Blue](#), a UN Project

Read about [Australian Marine Environment Protection Association's \(AUSMEPA\)](#) programs on Marine Environment for Students & Teachers!

Read about Environmental Conservation and Education Work by [The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa \(WESSA\)](#)

Check out the [Supporting Urban Sustainability \(SUS\)](#) by the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development

Read the latest Australian Association for Environment Education (AAEEE) [Newsletter!](#)
Check out their website [Here](#)

Find out more about [North American Association for Environmental Education \(NAAEE\)](#) who promote excellence in Environment Education

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The EAD SSI Team at the International Networking Forum On 'Educating for Sustainability'



10th February 2014

For any queries or information,
contact us at: sustainableschools@ead.ae
Or visit our [Website](#)

Also Check out our Story Map [here](#), The first of its kind from the Middle East!



@EADTweets



Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi



EnvironmentAbuDhabi

