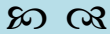


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- Page 9-11:** Read about the school that won the Khalifa Award
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....And more.

Special Note from BP

Welcome to the latest issue of Multakana!

BP is delighted to be able to introduce this latest edition of Multakana, and is a keen supporter of the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI). It's success is down to all the hard work of the schools, the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) team, with the support of Abu Dhabi Education Council and other stakeholders committed in Abu Dhabi.

BP has been involved with the initiative since 2009 and we are delighted to see how it has grown from strength to strength throughout the past five years. In this fifth year of the initiative we had a successful Eco Club Summit in April. The summit served as a powerful platform for the Sustainable Schools students to learn from each other and share best practices aiming at making Abu Dhabi A World Class City On Educating For Sustainability. As we are approaching towards the end of the academic year we look forward to great results of SSI and learn more about your success at the award ceremony.

We are delighted to partner with EAD on this initiative and proud to be associated with the SSI, and particularly proud of the Abu Dhabi Education Council and EAD team for their tireless and extremely innovative work. Above all, we are proud of the educators, teachers and students of Abu Dhabi Emirates schools, for it is they who made this programme such a resounding success.

AbdulKarim Al Mazmi

General Manager and Chief Representative for BP UAE

Important Dates to Remember in Quarter 3, 2014:

16th September:

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

The Heat is on!

Summer is here and so are vacations! We are sure by now you have a mitigation plan ready for your school! Don't forget to remind the caretakers of your schools to follow the plan while you are on vacation. Sustainability does not take a vacation. Make sure you remind them to:

1. Switch off/ Turn down A/Cs when not required
2. Switch off all faucets and water controls for unused areas
3. Take this opportunity to clean the Coolers
4. Keep the composting activity going on

Happy Holidays!

The Eco Club Summit

The first ever Eco Club Summit was organized by EAD in April 2014, where over two days, more than 300 students from 120 Abu Dhabi schools came together to share ideas and experiences in how they've tackled environmental issues within their schools.

The schools, within the Sustainable Schools Family, have made positive environmental changes through their students taking action. These changes included incorporating modern methods of irrigation, reducing waste as well as reducing consumption of water and electricity. During the summit, students shared their experiences to benefit others attending.

Commenting on the success of the summit, Ahmed Baharoon, EAD's Executive Director of Environmental Information, Science and Outreach said: "We are very proud to see that the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is filled with passionate youth who have already taken action on environmental issues within their own schools and communities. The youth of today are our hope and we're investing heavily in them to keep raising their environmental awareness to ensure a more sustainable future."

On the second day of the summit, some of the students showcased the creative skills they had gained, through training offered by EAD, by using puppetry play to highlight the importance of protecting marine biodiversity. Other students performed a musical show using instruments solely made from recycled material, effectively demonstrating the importance of waste management through 'Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling.'

Also on the second day of the Summit, the Arab Forum for Environment and Development awarded the students that participated in its environmental competition run from their Facebook page. The competition awarded the best schools that raised the most environmental awareness within their school community. The schools were awarded a laptop, an environmental library and a free annual subscription to the *Environment & Development* Arabic magazine.

The Eco Club Summit will be held every year as a platform to engage more youth locally, regionally and internationally on environmental issues.

We hope you enjoyed the Summit and got to learn something new from it! Watch the highlights of the Eco Club Summit on our Youtube page here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNMJUpRO8qE>

Also check out the summary of activities from the Eco Summit for both the days, here and here.

Glimpses of the Eco Club Summit



Celebration of “Earth Day” By Umm Al Emarat School

The girls at Umm Al Emarat School took their Eco Club Summit workshops very seriously. After attending the Summit, the girls went back to school determined to apply the knowledge they gained from the three workshops that they attended, as good practices in their school. They attended the Energy, Waste and GIS workshops in the Summit. The girls conducted similar workshops in their school and shared their knowledge with their classmates and friends. Not only this, they also organized an exhibition of their outputs. This exhibition was attended by ADEC and also a few schools which are in the vicinity of Umm Al Emarat School.

EAD wishes you all the best for further activities!

Here are some photos from the exhibition:



Photo Courtesy: Umm Al Emarat School

Celebration of “International Day for Biological Diversity By Grace Valley Indian School

Grace Valley Eco club celebrated ‘The World Bio diversity Day’ by conducting an organic farm visit as a part of external project at Zakher in Al Ain. The farm is named as ‘Al Khailey’ farm which is operated by Mr. Vijayan Pillai, who chose to dedicate his life to the cause of organic farming. The farm is spread across 40 acres and many vegetables and medicinal plants are cultivated there by using only organic fertilizers. The farm visit provided a great experience to the students in which they could get a chance to learn the method of organic farming.

Poster Designing Competition

As a part of celebration Eco club also conducted a poster designing competition in cooperation with Science club for the students from grade 4 to 8. The theme of the day this year was ‘**Island Biodiversity**’. Around 36 students participated in the competition to convey the message. The competition was aimed to arouse students’ ‘curiosity and creativity, and interest in environmental conservation through designing a poster on the topic. All students came with their own ideas and exhibited a healthy competition among them. The teachers selected the best among the posters and exhibited them on the notice board as an inspiration for the students.



Contributed by: Mr. Arjil, Grace Valley Indian School Al Ain

Celebration of Earth Day and Earth Hour by SKBZ Arab Pakistan School

The Students of SKBZ Arab Pakistan School celebrated the Earth Day in their school with various activities like Earth Day poem By Eco Club members, A short skit –Wastage free Environment, Speeches about Environmental Issues & proposed solutions, Video Screening related to Earth Hour. They also had a Poster Competition celebrating Earth Day. The girls section also had a presentation on “Save Trees, Save earth”. The theme was to generate awareness about reducing the cutting down of trees for unproductive purposes. The Students of SKBZA Pakistan School also participated in the Borouge cleanup drive and learnt a lot about why it is necessary to keep the beaches clean. The campaign was successful in creating awareness about importance of sea life. They were taught to identify ways and means to sustain healthy environment and made a commitment to keep their surroundings waste free.



Shared by: Mrs. Laila Naheed, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Arab Pakistan School

Celebration of World Planting Day & other activities at Al Ain Juniors

Al Ain Juniors School celebrated the World Planting day with various activities like Tree Planting, Poster Competition, Preparing Recycling Bins from Waste, etc. A Farm trip was arranged by SSI coordinators to create consciousness about eco friendly environment & natural resources among the students of primary school at AJ. Students visited Al Marai farm & returned back with a lot of new knowledge. They experienced milking process, feeding the live stock, cattle's food processing, etc. A Desert Cleanup was also arranged by the School to develop an understanding amongst the students for the desert wild life & to keep their habitats clean to protect them. Students participated in this effectual drive with interest & enthusiasm. In another activity, Students were taught to make 2D & 3D shapes during Math classes & were asked to create a "Geometry City" to apply the concept of shape **using reusable & recycled material**. The students also pledged to celebrate Earth Hour 2013 on Saturday 23rd March with UAE and participated in it by switching off lights to save energy.



Shared by: Mrs. Sobia Ahmad, Al Ain Juniors School

Annual Sustainability Fair at Al Nahda Girls School

The Event was organized and conducted by ANNGA Eco Club students in cooperation with different departments in the school : English, Business, Art and ICT. The exhibition mainly showcased the recycled and up cycled products designed and produced by Eco club students at different levels, over two days. There were two sessions of Panel discussions about waste Audit results (The problems faced by schools regarding environmental management and the possible solutions to reduce the impact of waste in schools and in the community). The Panel discussion was conducted by the Eco Club students with students from nine other schools. There was also a Puppet Show about causes of the environmental pollution. Few students put up a Fashion Show presenting two designs made out of water plastic bottles. The schools participating in the fair were: Al Manhal School, SKBZ Bangladesh School, Al Bashaer School, Abduljalil Alfahim School, Aisha bint Abi Baker School, Twenty First Century School, Al Khatem School, International Community School and Al Mawaheb Public School. All the schools received an Appreciation Certificate as a recognition for their active participation.



Contributed by: Ms. Awatef Moujaat, Al Nahda Girls School

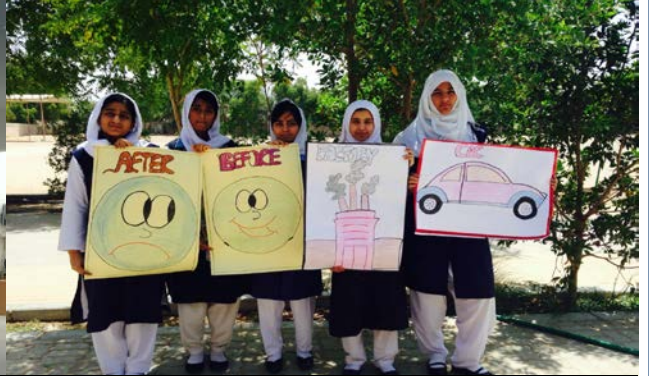
Celebration of “Earth Day” and “Earth Hour” by some of our SSI Schools



Al Adhwa School celebrating Earth Day



Al Nukhba School celebrating Earth Hour



Pakistan Islamia School celebrating Earth Day



Private International English School celebrating World Environment Day



Islamia School winning Idea Factor 2014 for their Business plan on Food Management



Ayesha Bint Abi Bakr School Celebrated Earth Day by giving saplings, skits and speeches

What is Citizen Science

In simplest terms, Citizen Science is scientific research conducted in whole or in part, by amateur or nonprofessional scientists. Our endeavour of the Urban Biodiversity Challenge is an example of Citizen Science.

What do you understand by Citizen Science?

Citizen science is a collaboration of scientists and researchers working with the public. Community-based groups may generate ideas and engage with scientists for advice, leadership, and program coordination. Interested volunteers, amateur scientists, students, and educators may network and promote new ideas to advance our understanding of the world. Citizen science programs vary in type and scope. You might prefer to work on a local level – like collecting Biodiversity data in the Urban Environment of Abu Dhabi Emirate!

What's in store for Future?

Keep watching this space for upcoming projects! We have many more ideas and projects to share with you in the next issue.



Read about our Urban Biodiversity Challenge on the next page!

Also check out some globally popular Citizen Science Websites and Projects:

- [Education and citizen science; the missing pieces in the sustainability puzzle](#) :An Article by Prof. Arjen Wals.
- [USA National Phenology Network](#):A project focused on collecting standardized ground observations of phenology by researchers, students and volunteers.
- [Project Noah](#): Join an army of worldwide wildlife enthusiasts to collect, record, discuss, observe Global Biodiversity. Project Noah is a tool to explore and document wildlife and a platform to harness the power of citizen scientists everywhere.
- [NoiseTube](#):The cool crowd-source Noise mapping app. Learn about how Citizen Science connects with Noise pollution.

The SSI GIS Programme and the Urban Biodiversity Challenge - An Example of Citizen Science



The SSI GIS Programme has been a huge success since its initiation last year in October. As a part of this programme we trained more than 25 schools and 160 students from Abu Dhabi Schools, in Basic Concepts of GIS and using the Collector App, customized for Biodiversity mapping. We began the Urban Biodiversity Challenge as a competition for the students of Abu Dhabi to capture Animals and Plants that are seen in the Urban Environment, i.e. only in the city. We challenged the students to record 100 species in total from urban areas. UAE being a desert, everyone initially thought it to be impossible to find 100 species of animals and plants. However at the end of 40 days the students had recorded 129 species from a whopping 873 entries! The main objective of the challenge was to get students closer to nature using technology. The winners were awarded at the Eco Club Summit. Don't feel bad if you did not participate this time, we will be back in winter with another challenge!

At the Eco Club Summit, in the GIS workshop, the students also learnt how to make Story Maps. Check out all our Story maps here:

<http://bit.ly/1aiXVoA>: 1st Story Map from the Middle East

<http://bit.ly/PK1cWW>: Story Map on Urban Biodiversity Challenge

<http://bit.ly/1ly6wju>: Story Map made by students in Eco Club Summit

SSI FAMILY IS PROUD AND CONGRATULATES Al Tale'a School for winning the most prized Khalifa Award in the Education and the Sustainable Environment Category

After the Zayed Future Energy Prize another great achievement by one of our SSI schools! Al Tale'a School recently won the Khalifa Award for education in the Education and Sustainable Environment Category.

The competition targeted all the schools and institutions that follow successful programmes and projects in the field of sustainable environment in UAE . Being part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI), Al Tale'a School actively carries out all the SSI Activities like the Green Audit, Training participation, Eco Clubs and Field trips and applied to the competition showcasing all of these components. A very hearty Congratulations from EAD to Al Tale'a School!





Other EAD Endeavours

ANNUAL
ENVIRONMENT
COMPETITION
An Initiative of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi



المسابقة
البيئية
السنوية
مبادرة من هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي

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In May, EAD announced the winners of the 13th Annual Environment Competition, launched earlier this year with support from the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC). The competition, designed to increase awareness on environmental issues in different schools and universities across the United Arab Emirates, saw the highest level of participation since its launch in 2000, with **2,087** submissions from **647** schools and universities.

Encouraging people to reduce their 'foodprint', the competition draws attention to the social and economic implications of food waste, and its association with the loss of biodiversity, water and energy. This year's theme "THINK. EAT. SAVE: Reduce Your Foodprint", is aligned with the United Nations theme for World Environment Day, observed annually on the 5th of June.

Commenting on the competition, Fozeya Ibrahim Al Mahmoud, Director of Environmental Outreach at EAD, said: "The success of the competition is a result of the collaboration between EAD and its partners at the Ministry of Education, ADEC, and the educational zones in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western Region in addition to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. This competition is not only an effective way to raise awareness, but to ensure today's generation is well equipped to become the environmental ambassadors of tomorrow."

The number of participating students in the competition has significantly increased, reflecting a fourteen-fold increase in the number of entries within the past thirteen years.

Commenting on the popularity of the competition amongst students, Al Mahmoud said: "The increase in the number of participations has helped the competition grow into a unique platform that enables students to creatively express themselves and their views about major environmental concerns facing the UAE and the world."

In April, EAD showcased the student's creative work and outstanding competition entries at an exhibition held at its headquarters in Al Mamoura building. Competition categories included drawing and colouring, short story writing, photography (to remove) 'click-a-pic', a public awareness campaign, debate, and research. In the drawing and colouring category, kindergarten students submitted their paintings titled 'Do not waste food!' while elementary students' paintings focused on 'Food waste hurts nature'.

Check out more information in the below link:

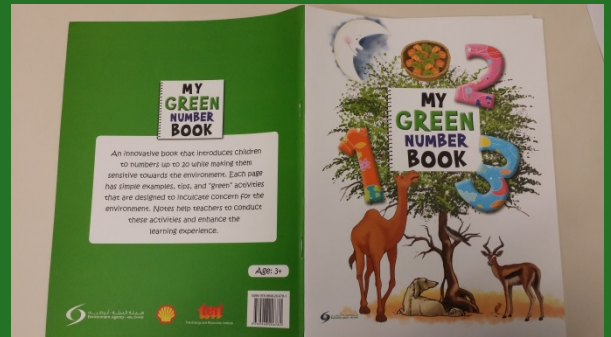
https://www.ead.ae/en/news/ead_reveals_winners_of_its_aec.aspx



Other EAD Endeavours

EAD Publications from this Quarter

We are glad to announce our new publication this Quarter
“The Green Number Book”
We hope you have already received your copy and liked it!
Do write to us if you haven't received it yet.



EAD and Borouge launch the Sustainable Campus Initiative

On the Occasion of World Environment Day, EAD and Borouge, launched the Pilot Phase of the Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) for Universities around Abu Dhabi, an extension of EAD's award-winning environmental education programme, the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI). After the very successful SSI project going on since so many years, the SCI now aims at University Youth, also keeping in mind the SSI kids who grew up and are now attending College. The Pilot Phase has begun with a participation of 4 Campuses: HCT Madinat Zayed, Zayed University, HCT Ruwais and Khalifa City Women's College.

The Sustainable Campus Initiative encourages university students in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to take responsibility for their campus's ecological footprint. EAD will do this by teaching the students how to lead, how to measure and assess their campus's environmental footprint, and how to develop an action plan to reduce it. So far, EAD has trained the participating students on how to assess environmental performance at an individual, institutional and community level. Students are focusing on 5 key priority areas: Water, Waste, Energy, Climate Change and the Sustainable Use of Land. EAD has also guided them on how to undertake community outreach projects. This was done through an interactive workshop that gauged the insight of students on how they perceived outreach projects in their community. Check out the Promo Video [here](#) and more information on the launch [here](#):

If you are in college and want your college to join SCI, write to us now! Applications are open for the next phase, to be launched in November, on first come first serve basis.



For Your Information

Globalized diet: More food, less diversity, more associated risks

As experts have been suspecting for a while, and as many of us have certainly noticed, people's diets around the world have become very similar. So much so that in the past 50 years the whole world has come to rely increasingly on just a few crops for most of its food supplies – including old favorites such as wheat, rice, maize, and potato but also more recent ones like soybean, sunflower oil and palm oil – along with meat and dairy products. Many local crops that used to be important in Africa or Asia such as sorghum, millet, rye, sweet potato, cassava, and yam are failing to keep up.

While we generally eat more calories, protein and fat than 50 years ago, the lack of diversity in such a “standard globalized diet” may deprive us from the micronutrients our body needs. It may also increase the occurrence of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes, even in countries that are struggling to make enough food available to their people.

The other danger of relying upon just a few crops is that this makes agriculture and the global food system more vulnerable, and increases the risk of food crisis. Similar to the concept of portfolio diversification in finance, a diversified agriculture is more resilient to major threats like drought, insect pests, and diseases, all expected to worsen with climate change.

Check out the [Newsletter](#) by the Canadian Wildlife Federation to know more about their activities!

Read about a very unique project on this [blog](#) on ‘Artists And Climate Change’

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

An Initiative of



هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI

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In Partnership with



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم
Abu Dhabi Education Council
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A Letter to all our SSI Coordinators

Dear Coordinators

Here's wishing you all Happy Holidays from EAD!

We are sure that it would have been a tough but rewarding journey with your SSI implementation in this past academic session, with your base line audit and Eco Club projects and so on. Rest well during your holidays. When you come back during end of August, be ready to get on with finalizing your mitigation plans that you had framed after you finished your baseline green audits during the past academic session.

Remember! SSI phase 2 has a longer cycle. It is now time for you to start working towards submission of your detailed reports such as your success at mitigating and enhancing your resource use identified with the help of Green audit that you undertook, the community outreach project that you undertook as a part of your Eco Club external projects, the transformation in your schools with regards to teaching and learning about environmental concepts, your field trip successes and so on.

By end of November, all SSI schools desirous of participating and **WINNING the SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS AWARDS** would have to submit their detailed SSI implementation to us. While the award ceremony would be held in June 2015, a thorough evaluation process will start with all SSI partners from December onwards. Hold your breath! **The scope of SSI award has now been scaled up.** Winning schools would get a **SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL REWARD**, this would greatly help you in undertaking your dream sustainability project for your schools. The actual award will be a real big surprise for you. With great rewards also comes great expectation and work. So after your summer holidays, buckle up and be ready to prove your sustainability journey is real by getting your evidences and reports ready on time. Meanwhile, **ENJOY, HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY TO YOUR HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS AND SAFE HEALTH** to all of you!

We hope to see you all back in August; Till then adios.

- From the SSI team

The EAD SSI Team at the Eco Club Summit



30th April 2014

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



@EADTweets



Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi



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