



# Inside SCI

## Sustainable Campus Initiative Newsletter

Ensuring Sustainable Footprint!

### QUOTE OF THE EDITION:

"Youth are the wealth of a nation, the source of ambition and the lighthouse to future foresight. Their energy, aspirations, and visions are programs of action for us in comprehensive development, involving the all segments of community and led by the efforts and aspirations of youth who are confident in their capabilities and ensures to develop skills, contributes to build its nation and participates at shaping a better tomorrow for humanity."

— H. H Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Minister of Presidential Affairs.

### Opening note:

Biodiversity plays an important role in environmental conservation. Biodiversity provides regulatory services with an impact on climate regulation and environmental quality. For instance, Trees produce oxygen, isolate carbon and other pollutants, and when trees and plants grow, they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and lock it away in their tissues. Trees also provide shade and forests affect rainfall and water availability locally and globally.

In addition, Insects and wind pollinate plants and trees are essential for the development of fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Animals play an important role in the pollination process, it's an ecosystem service mainly provided by insects, birds, and bats.

These animals affect global crop production by increasing about 75% of leading food crops worldwide.

Furthermore, biodiversity creates vital control of predators and parasites in ecosystems where it controls vector populations and potential diseases..

Last but not least, they perform waste-water treatment. Ecosystems such as wetlands filter effluents, decompose waste through the biological activity of microorganisms, and eliminate harmful pathogens.

Learn more about biodiversity in the next edition.

Best wishes,  
SCI Team.



## Sponsors Welcome:

Borouge, a joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Austria-based Borealis, is a leading contributor to innovative plastic solutions for various industries. Borouge endorses the protection of human wellbeing, resource optimisation, and knowledge building to support new opportunities among community members.

As a provider of plastic and chemical products, Borouge commits to sustainability principles and proactively addresses environmental issues, such as water sanitation and the safe management of chemicals. In alignment with the vision of Borouge to positively impact society today and tomorrow, we have partnered with SCI for over five years to build leadership capacity among the youth.

“At Borouge we are proud of our commitment to sustainability in everything we do. Through our long-standing engagement with Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) we inspire today's youth to understand and adopt sustainability principles to protect our precious environment and empower our community,” said Maitha Al Marashi, VP Sustainability, Borouge.





# SCI in Action

## Youth`s Role in Climate Action

In line with the celebration of National Environment Day 27 People Interactively took part at the session. Mouza Al Zaabi Assistant Scientist, Air Quality & Climate Change, Environment Quality shared the concept of Climate change and a trend in the temperature rise indicating the abundance of certain Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere causing an increase in the overall temperature and affecting the seas, oceans and the biodiversity. Locally, in the UAE Climate change can create risks related to floods, health issues, sea level rise, etc.

Mouza then shared few strategies done locally and globally, and programmes youth can take part in. Followed by Amani Bin Humaid Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) Project Manager who shared a brief about the initiative, goals, components, tools, experience, and opportunities for youth to achieve action for climate



## Higher Education Climate Dialogue

SCI Team took part at the higher education Climate Dialogue Panel Discussion and breakout session on the 21st of February 2022, with a total of 40 participants, sharing insight about how SCI contributes in incentivising and fostering a community that is strategised towards sustainability in such a diverse academic environment and SCI's role in empowering higher education to increase their sustainability actions.

Aisha Al Mazroui, SCI Project Manager –said: educators from various background can approach us for any collaborations. Moreover, there is a huge opportunity to connect, network, and allow universities to promote for their events, similar to this event.”

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# Eco Pedestal

## Abu Dhabi University experts gather to talk about “Sustainability in the UAE”.



This Month Abu Dhabi University earned its spot at the Eco- Pedestal for organising and hosting a 3 days discussion sessions and one day forum with more than 145 experts including professors, researchers touching upon sustainability policies, initiatives, case studies that highlighted current industry practices, future improvements, and how faculty can contribute to sustainable production and consumption in the UAE. At the Forum, the experts shed light on the importance of consulting and utilising academic experts in the Sustainability field in the UAE. The forum was supported by Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research- University of St. Andrews and the University of Birmingham in the UK.

The forum focused on bringing up collective actions, discussing best international practices that bridge the gap between industry and academia in implementing comprehensive sustainable development plans.

Professor Waqar Ahmad ADU's Provost and Interim Chancellor mentioned: "The United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets have serious implications for every nation on earth, East and West, North and South, rich and poor, over- and under-developed. If one looks at these 17 goals, it's clear that most if not all of these, have received great interest in the region.

Since its independence, the UAE has developed at a phenomenal speed, but with today's ever-changing economy the conditions which enabled this development no longer persist, thereby inspiring the nation's wise leadership to think about sustainability differently and focus particularly on resolving the challenges that face sustainable development plans. As one of the region's world-class higher education institutions, Abu Dhabi University is playing its part in emphasizing the importance of sustainability through research, knowledge exchange and education", said Prof. Ahmad.

On his part, Professor of Accounting and Sustainability and Head of Research in the Department of Accounting at the University of Birmingham pointed out that the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, represented a quantum leap that contributed to defining specific parameters for the concept of sustainability.

He added: "Global progress towards achieving sustainability goals has been relatively slow. Most societies have successfully eradicated blatantly unsustainable practices but still have a long way to go and numerous challenges to overcome. Most of these challenges have clear and achievable solutions. Our role as academics is to spread awareness, create collaborative interdisciplinary research projects that resolve collective problems, and aid corporations in devising realistic implementation plans that highlight the reality of sustainability and abandon unsustainable accounting practices".

What an Inspiring Forum ADU!

Read more: [here](#)



## Eco Watch

### Who`s responsible for Ecosystem restoration?

March 24, 2022, at 10:00am – 12:00 pm

Location: ZOOM



As individuals and as a society, we are encouraged to participate in environmental preservation, and to mitigate the consequences of human caused environmental degradation collectively. Is it the role of governments and the public sectors to implement laws and policies that enforce change top down? Or should this change begin on a community level?

Join us in the International Environmental Youth Debate hosted by Sustainable Campus Initiative titled "Who is responsible for ecosystem restoration?" between UAE team and South Korea team and listen to the views on whether it is an individual's responsibility or that of the government to preserve the environment, address the impact of climate change and resources degradation.

Register using the following: [Click here](#)





# Green Space

Green Space:

Environmental occasions : Celebrate and share your latest posts.

- National Reading Month - March 2022
- Global Recycling Day - 18 March
- International Day of Forests – 21st March
- World Water Day – 22nd March
- Earth Hour – 26th March

Take the chance to celebrate one of the environmental days happening this month!

## Connect with SCI

Join our network and stay updated with all things sustainable at:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/greenyouthmajlis/about/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Sustainable-Campus-Initiative-100339758483754/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sustainablecampusae/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/greenyouthmajlis/?hl=en>

And follow our movement through our hashtags #SustainableCampus #UAEYouth!



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