



GREEN HOPE UAE NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE



The Rio+20 outcome document provided us with the framework of building a sustainable world and this has been further reinforced by the UN Secretary General's report calling for "a life of dignity for all".

The post2015 agenda provides us with a great platform and opportunity to shift from a silo-based approach to an all inclusive one , with equal representation and opportunity for all marginalised sections of civil society in order to achieve a seamless integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. We, children and youth, are the Future Generations and we must be proactive and take the reins in our hands in shaping the course of the future. We must ensure that we are an inclusive part in agenda setting , policy making and implementation at all levels of engagement. Let us chart our own way forward , create our own roads and demand what is rightfully ours!

Editor : Kehkashan Basu

MEMBER ARTICLES



NO SMOKING

Nowadays in almost every movie and in almost any restaurant you see signs saying "NO SMOKING" or "SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH" But why do they say that? Most people have not gone into detail about smoking but as we all know it affects the lungs and can cause death. It can cause phlegm production, an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness, an unfavorable lipid profile and potential retardation in the rate of lung growth and the level of maximum lung function. Smoking does not only affect the lungs but it can also affect the heart, the eyes, the throat, the urinary tract, the digestive organs, the bones and joints, and the skin. Every year, there are approximately 46,000 deaths from heart disease in people who are current non-smokers. There are many people around you who may smoke. At least one person you have seen in your life that smokes. But have you ever wondered how many people smoke? Between 80,000 to 100,000 children start smoking every day. Yes, children. And roughly half of them are said to be Asians. Smoking prevalence is higher among those of 9-11 years of education compared with those of 16 years of education. Nearly 20% of 12th grade population of smokers. Think about how many people actually smoke every day? About 16.5% of the world's population smoke, that is about 1.1 billion people which is said to become 1.6 billion by 2025. After research, we have found out that about 50% of these smokers smoke for at least 15 to 20 years of their lives. Smoking is a drug. About 8.6 million people in the USA have an illness caused by smoking. Male smokers lose an average of 13.2 years of their life and female smokers lose about 14.5 years of their life. Every cigarette you smoke can shorten your life by 11 minutes. Among current smokers, chronic lung disease accounts for 73 percent of smoking-related conditions. Even among smokers who have quit chronic lung disease accounts for 50 percent of smoking-related conditions. Smoking is the cause of 1 in 5 deaths in the U.S. annually. And tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death. Just one single cigarette has about 6,800 chemicals out of which 69 of them can cause of cancer. If you burn a cigarette, an additional 200 compounds are produced. These chemicals are not just normal chemicals; some of them are pretty disgusting which you probably wouldn't guess that they would be in a cigarette. Urea, a chemical compound that is a major component in urine, is used to "flavor" cigarettes. There is enough amount of nicotine in 5 cigarettes that can kill a person if it is chewed. Every year, smoking kills more than 276,000 men and 142,000 women. About 3,000 deaths occurred just because of second-hand smoking which means that if you are a smoker, you are a direct danger to your family, relatives and friends. Smoking by parents is associated with a wide range of adverse effects in their children, including exacerbation of asthma, increased frequency of colds and ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome. Secondhand smoke causes more than an estimated 202,000 asthma episodes, 790,000 physician visits for buildup of fluid in the middle ear, and 430 sudden infant death syndrome cases each year. The radiation from smoking a pack of cigarettes a day compares to almost 2,000 chest x-rays. If you do a few calculations, we can tell that in one minute, 7 people die just because of smoking which means that smoking claims 1 life every 8 seconds. One of the most shocking news is that about 5.608 trillion cigarettes are smoked every year. So that means more than 15 billion cigarettes are smoked per day. This is why cigarettes are the most traded item in the world. Over 6 trillion cigarettes are sold around the world each year. That equates to over \$400 billion, making smoking one of the world's biggest industries. So please quit smoking before smoking quits you. Because if you can't stop smoking, then cancer will. Stopping smoking can make a big difference to your graders, 12% of 10th graders and 5.5% of 8th graders smoke cigarettes daily. This is just the health. It is never too late to stop smoking to greatly benefit your health. For example, if you stop smoking in middle age, before having cancer or some other serious disease, you avoid most of the increased risk of death due to smoking. Many people have given up smoking. In 1972 just under half of adults in the UK were smokers. By 1990 this had fallen to just under a third. At present, about a sixth of UK adults are smokers.

KOMAL MUTHYALU

SAVE WATER

If we save water

It will save us later

If water runs in the sink

Our life on earth will be on the brink

If we stop the drip

We can save the drop

When taking shower is cool

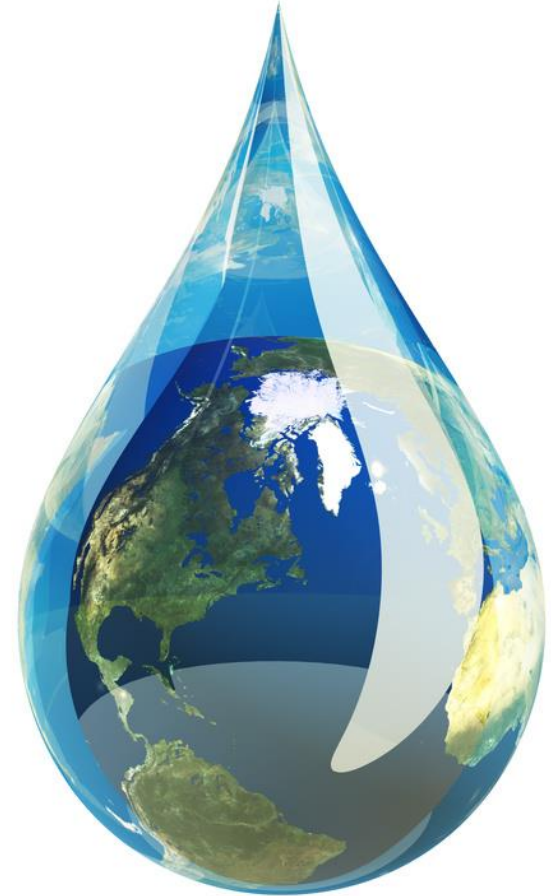
Why to cover your pool?

Hydrogen and oxygen makes H₂O

If you and me don't save, it will be Zero

Let's not only be a cloud builder

But also be a rainmaker.



BUVANESWARI JAYASANKAR

SOARING HIGH

Birds in their nests,
With their children,
The most beautiful of God's creations,
The most endearing of all,
They help us in several ways.
A cock wakes us up in the morning,
Cock a doodle doo.
Crows clean the mess sounding,
Caw, caw, caw,
The funny parrot brings a smile to our lips,
While imitating our ways and words.

The lark soars high in the sky,
Singing and swinging,
The peacock flaunts its feathers,
Breaking into a dear dance when it rains,
The flightless emu teach us,
That you can be different but still accepted.
We may be different,
But we are same as well,
"Coz soar as eagles we all must,
Trying to develop and hone our skills

UAE GREEN FESTIVAL

"Live, learn and have fun in a low-carbon world." UAE Green Festival is a countrywide celebration that is specifically designed to educate people across the seven emirates about a new way of life that's achievable in an enjoyable way. The aim of this festival is to unveil UAE's sustainable identity as a leading green destination that provides its residents and visitors a better quality of life. It will also provide government bodies and private entities with a platform for knowledge exchange and discussion of issues related to sustainable development.

UAE Green Festival highlights a wide range of awareness activities across the seven Emirates. Participants will get a first-hand experience of all the aspects of a green life including Green Shopping, Green Art, Green Fitness, Eco-Breakfast, Eco-Fashion, and Green Auto Show. Green Knowledge will be shared by Green experts via conferences and exhibitions.

Me being a part of the environmental organization Green Hope UAE, I had the pleasure of attending a few of these conferences (as a volunteer) such as the ISTC (International Sustainability Transport Conference), GCC Eco-Tourism Conference and Greenovation. Visit their site for more information <http://www.uaegreenfestival.com>

The first conference I attended was the ISTC in the Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th of March. It gave an eye-opening insight in the everyday CO2 emission and consumption of fossil fuels and the statistical view on the eco-friendly changes that can be made into our lifestyle and means of transport. What I really found interesting was the way the speakers explained how they manipulated the laws of physics in order to create hybrid cars, that is, electric cars.

The second conference I attended was the GCC Eco-Tourism which was held at the Ramada Hotel and Suites (the most eco-friendly hotel in Ajman), Ajman on the 30th and 31st of March, where they highlighted ways in which tourism can have its share of the profits from the increasing globalization but also stay environmentally friendly. For me, the speakers that stood the most was Ms. Kumud Sengupta who spoke about the practical implications of Eco-Tourism, Mr. Iffikhar Hamdani who is the General Manager of the hotel mentioned the ongoing environmental friendly actions that were implemented at the hotel like their own organic farm (they grow and use majority of their own produce). Also another speaker that intrigued me was Mr. Guy Wolfensberg from Planet Solar who spoke about the 5 time Guinness World Record winning boat which travel across the world only on solar power.

The third conference was held at the Jebel Ali Golf Resort and Spa on the 1st and 2nd of April, on the ideas proposing a comprehensive framework for green stimulus programs which in turn will upgrade the domestic and corporate practices. This conference supported the ideas for new innovative technologies and sustainable solutions for a brighter and greener future. It also formed a common platform to increase awareness about the new technology and exchanging knowledge on the sustainable development and consumption.

Being able to be at registration table definitely gave me a confidence boost, I interacted in some of the "greenest" in UAE. It was a great experience overall.

ALKA SATHYAN

BLUE MAGIC

It was once said, "The war of the 21st century will be fought over water..." A few thousand years from now, no person would ever think, a gift from the almighty would be misused to such an extent, that majority of life would be left without it.

Friends, what would you do, if you were one of the 3.4 million people who end their life due to shortage of water? Picture this, you are back home dead tired after an energetic game of football, and are in desperate need of a drink. After a long, long search, you realize that not a single drop of this crystal pearly luxurious quenching liquid is available. Just imagine, if you were one of the 700 million children who wake up to drink a glass of infected sewage water! People gulp contaminated water they find, only because they were not provided with the gift of clear drinking water.

Water is the most essential component of life. We cannot work, play, walk, dance, run or even sleep without this magical liquid. Trees cannot survive without water. If there are no trees, there is no oxygen, no oxygen would mean no existence of life itself! If viewed from a perspective angle, water is actually the root of life. But in today's world, water is depleting at an increasingly alarming rate.

As Global Citizens, it is our moral duty to act against this depletion and take steps to conserve our root to existence.

This year, Green Hope UAE celebrated World Water Day, by raising awareness on conservation of water and spreading this message amongst all sections of civil society.

Let us all save as much water as we can and thereby contribute to making our Blue Planet live up to its title!

"We never know the worth of water, till the well is dry..."

- -SAVE WATER, SAVE LIFE!

SHASHWIK SHETTY

NATURE TO USE NOT TO ABUSE

It has been rightly said, "The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself!". Nature is our surrounding. It has given us our habitat. It is our responsibility to keep God's Gift in its natural condition. In our mad race for development, senseless activities such as poisoning of the Earth has been continuously committed by man. "We haven't inherited it from our parents, but has been bestowed on us from the previous generation." Therefore it our duty to protect nature by all means. WE call ourselves the most civilized of animals, but our atrocities towards nature show how civilized we are! Nature is being misused and polluted. God has given us nature to enjoy its scenery and not for draining its resources. Power - hungry man is continuously draining & robbing nature of its worth and moreover polluting it. For decades we have been misusing nature has a dump yard. Though environmentalists are repeatedly warning us, there seems to be no effect. We pollute the soil with pesticides and nuclear tests, etc. unaware of its catastrophic effects. We contaminate the air with gases and un-burnt carbon particles.

WHY?

But, we do know the saying, "it is never too late". Let us join hands and stop these atrocities. Plant more trees. Let us start rain harvesting ... stop the use of abundant amounts of pesticides. Fit catalyzers in cars, which let out harmless white smoke. We the present Generation should take an Oath that "We will save Mother Nature for our next generations to come and prevent our future generation from saying.... "Once Upon A Time There Used To Be Something Known As Tree....."

VIKRAM SATISH

TIPS TO SAVE WATER

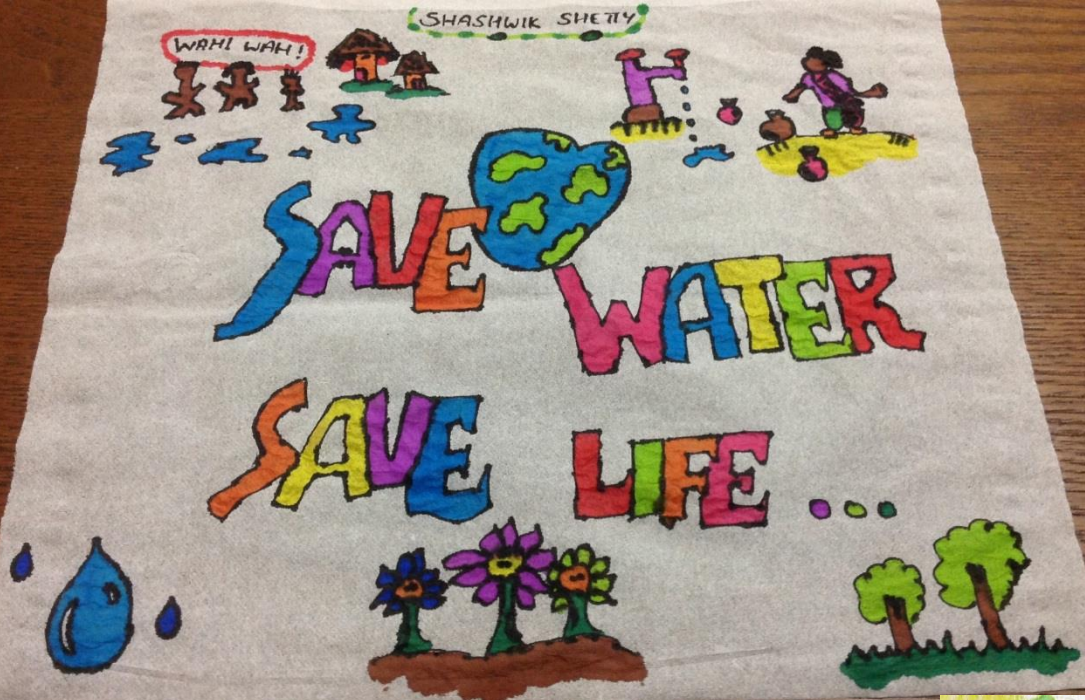
- **Turn off what's not in use:** Running the tap while brushing your teeth can waste 15 liters of water.
- **Fix any leaks:** Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drop per second can waste up to 10,000 liters of water each year.
- **Recycle, reuse:** Everything takes water to make. Buy only when you need to and reuse what you can. It takes 2500 liters to make a cotton t-shirt and 10,000 liters for a pair of jeans. Buy fewer clothes, and when using a washing machine or dishwasher, wait till you have enough for a full-load.
- **Bath-time:** Bathtub – bad! Shower – okay. Bucket – best!
- **Gardening:** Water used in landscaping and gardening accounts for a major portion of domestic water use, especially in the developed world. Moreover, 50 percent of water used in gardening goes waste due to evaporation or runoff caused by over-watering. Consider installing a drip irrigation system rather than using a hose or sprinkler. Water your garden in the morning or evenings, ensuring that less water is lost to evaporation. Use local plants in your garden. Check if your garden actually needs watering. If the soil is still wet 2 inches beneath the surface, your plants don't need water. Spread some mulch around your plants. This will help retain moisture and save water, time, and money.
- **The water you "eat":** If you are a non-vegetarian, consider reducing your non-vegetarian meals. A kilogram of chicken costs 3900 liters of water in terms of water input for chicken feed and for processing; a kilo of mutton costs 6000 liters. In contrast, a kilo of wheat needs 1000 liters. Rice is rather expensive though, a kilo needing 3750 liters. Like a cup of coffee in the morning? Think about shifting to tea. A cup of coffee needs 140 liters of water in terms of growing the necessary coffee beans, and processing; a cup of tea needs only 30.

V. VIJAY

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environment is everything around us whether it be exquisite creatures that we see around us or the lush green growth that we admire and praise the most. It is around nature that man has spent most of his time. It is because of nature a gift from God that we are breathing today and cherishing the moments of our life with our families. Nature is a noble thing that calms us, heals us and gives us the power of ethics. In this approaching era of technology we are destroying the serenity around us, one such issue that has traumatized mother earth is Global Warming. Global warming is a major environmental concern in this era; it has become a major cause of many problems as the shocking climatic change unveils in front of us. With every passing minute greenhouse effect, air pollution, melting glaciers, depletion of ozone layers adds on to global warming. Awareness of this global threat reinforced public concern about the environment problems and thereby provided environmental activist, scientist with new momentum in their efforts to promote environmental protection. Its time all of us to take a stand to fight against this cause and save the planet earth. Certain human activities have a huge impact on global warming which can result in catastrophic consequences. It's our responsibility to reduce such activities. Air pollution which contributes majorly to global warming can be reduced by car pooling and traveling by public transport or by using eco friendly vehicles. These examples are just the tip of the ice berg, we can do a lot of such things which can reduce the impact of global warming largely and ensure the future generation their right to live in a greener environment. I do my bit for a greener future, Are you doing yours?

AKASH GAJENDRA



PHOTOGRAPHY





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*SEYCHELLES
AT ITS BEST!*



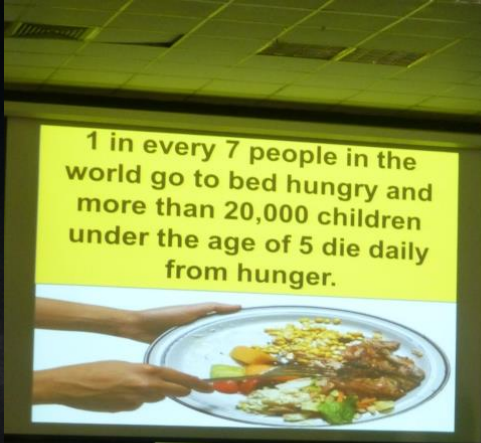
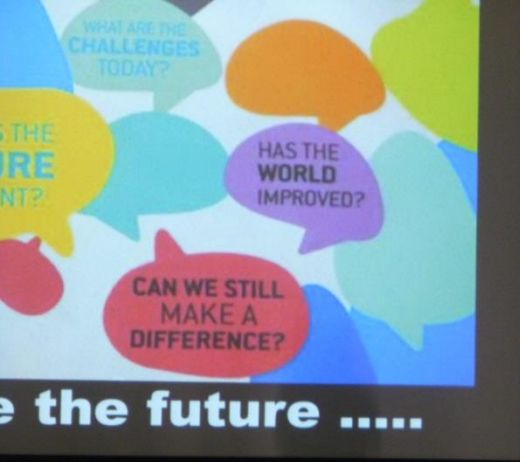
GREEN HOPE



ACTIVITIES



**UAE NATIONAL
DAY PARADE**



**WORKSHOP @ THE
WINCHESTER
SCHOOL**



ICONS COFFEE COUTURE



WORKSHOP @ THE EMIRATES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S INTERNATIONAL DAY



**WORKSHOP
ON
SCP
WITH
CORPORATES**



**ACADEMY @ THE
EMIRATES
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**



DEWA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



VISIT TO WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT



**GHAFF TREE
PLANTATION ON
WANGARI
MAATHAI DAY**



**TREE PLANTING ON
UAE NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT DAY**



EARTH HOUR



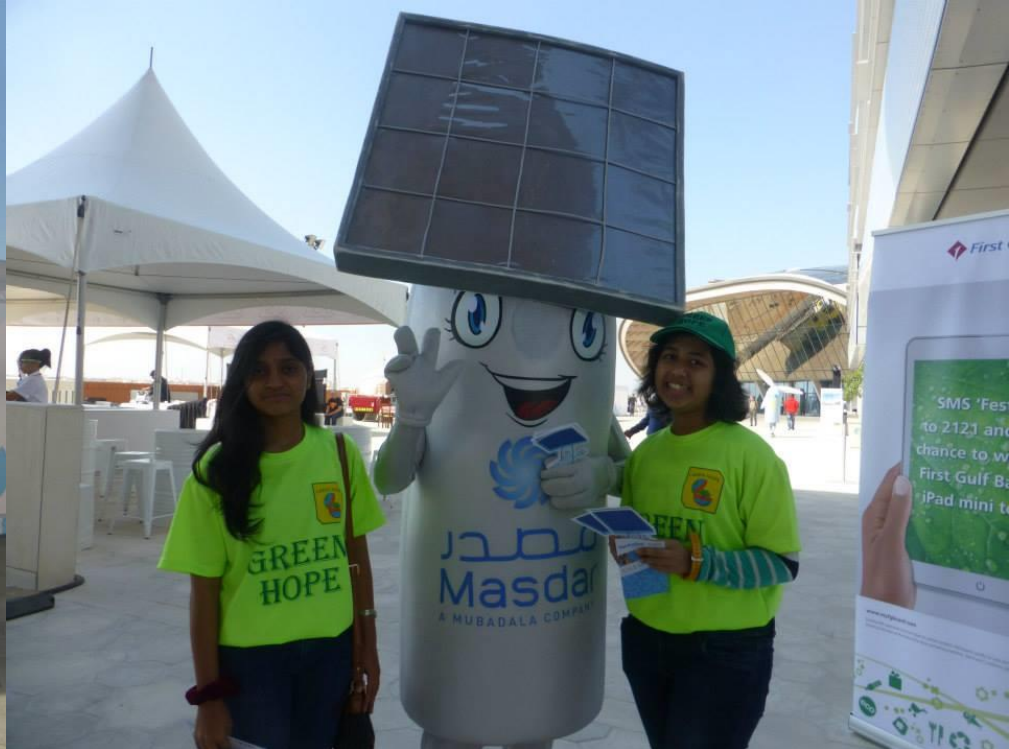
DESERT CLEANUP



**WHATEVER FLOATS
YOUR BOAT**



**WORLD CAR-FREE
DAY**



MASDAR'S SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL



WORKSHOP AT THE SALMAN FARSI IRANIAN SCHOOL



SCIFEST DUBAI

CHARITY EVENTS

**WALK FOR WORLD DOWN
SYNDROME DAY**



WALK FOR AUTISM



DUBAI MARATHON



**VALENTINE'S DAY LABOUR
CAMP HANDOUT**



CHARITY EVENTS

FLEA MARKET



FUND RAISING
FOR
TYPHOON
HAIYAN



WHAT WORKS - KHDA

WHAT WORKS WELLBEING



WHAT WORKS ENTREPRENEURSHIP



PARTNERS WITH KHDA



UAE GREEN FESTIVAL



AWARDS



“Eng. Salah Amiri, Assistant Director General of Dubai Municipality, has honoured Ms. Kehkashan Basu the first ‘Ambassadors of Sustainability’ of 2014 representing her team ‘Green Hope’ under the ‘Ambassadors of Sustainability’ programme of Dubai Municipality for their outstanding contributions, projects and suggestions in collecting and disposal of waste in the most sustainable way.”

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

**At the 1st PAGE
conference -
Dubai**

**With the Minister of Environment &
Water of the UAE, HE Dr. Rashid
Ahmad Bin Fahad**



**With the Executive Director of UNEP,
Mr. Achim Steiner**



**With HH
Sheikh
Abdullah bin
Zayed Al
Nahyan,
Minister of
Foreign
Affairs of the
UAE**



**With HRH
Prince
Hassan Bin
Talal of
Jordan**



CONFERENCES



@ the Green Energy Conference & Solar Middle East



@ the Arab High Level on Sustainable Development



@ the RCM, UNEP



@ the 1st Open Ended Meeting of the CPR, UNEP



@ the 1st Arab South-South Expo

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **EARTH DAY**
- **TREE
PLANTING EVENT**
- **OUR 6TH ACADEMY**



Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat



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