

# AL SIDRAH

أكتوبر 2016 | المجلد 2 | العدد 19

## EPDA launches Generation of Advanced Technology Initiative

The Generation of Advanced Technology Initiative involves organizing visits by school students to the different industries in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. This is a first of its kind initiative in the emirate that will expose students to industries and associated technologies as learning experiences outside of their classroom. Besides introducing students to the different technologies associated with industries, this initiative also aims to provide students and teachers with an understanding of industry operations, offer varied career options to students, as well as the appraise students of the steps taken by industries to contribute to sustainable development of the country.

For this pilot initiative, nearly 300 students from 5 schools have registered to take advantage of this opportunity. The first of these visits took place on October 10, 2016. 28 students from Sha'am Secondary School for Boys visited Touch of Glass factory located in Al Jazeera Al Hamra in RAK.

Touch of Glass creates artistic and decorative glasses for commercial and residential purposes employing state-of-the-art technology in the different processes of engraving or painting on glass. Students were impressed with the demonstration of how glass is cut to the required size and shape, how it is buffed to ensure safety, how intricate etching is done using the sandblasting technique, and how glass sheets can be bent into any desired shape using sophisticated technology.

Along with the processes, they were also informed of how they reduce their glass waste by recycling to the maximum extent possible. Students were also impressed by the steps taken by the company to ensure the working atmosphere is dust-free. Touch Of Glass owners impressed upon the students on the need to balance the commercial aspects of a business with good technical capabilities to always stay ahead in business.

When students from the New Indian Higher Secondary School entered the control room of the Union Cement Company in RAK, they were in for a major surprise to learn of the Union

Cement Company in RAK, they were in for a major surprise to learn of the sophistication involved in cement manufacturing. The production engineer from the facility very enthusiastically explained to them all of the steps involved right from sourcing of the raw materials to the final storage of the finished product. And a close look at the Quality Assurance process, both for the raw materials as well as finished products, using X-rays revealed to them the wide range of industrial applications of technology. The final leg of the visit involved a tour of the factory, and that gave them a complete overview of the scale of operations involved in cement manufacture.

Almost all students were unanimous in describing the visits as 'awesome' and extremely informative and useful. Accompanying teachers too opined that visits like these will encourage students to get a wider perspective of career options they could look into as they step out of school in the near future.

EPDA will continue to undertake more such visits in the coming months.



## VISION

Protection of the environment & sustainability of resources.

## MISSION

Uniqueness in providing, monitoring and environmental awareness services through the application of laws and regulations and investing relationship with partners and conduct studies and research that contribute to the

### **EPDA enforces shut down of oil factory on account of environmental performance irregularities**

EPDA forced the shutdown of an oil factory in Ras Al Khaimah due to an increase in emissions from the permissible levels. After a series of night inspections of the industrial installation, it was observed that there were some breakdowns and repairs in the factory that led to these increased emissions. EPDA decided to permit the factory to run its operations only after the necessary fulfillment of all required environmental conditions.

### **EPDA plans concrete measures to conserve groundwater**

As part of EPDA's efforts to conserve groundwater in the UAE, a number of measures are being planned to prevent wastage and stop usage of this precious resource by industries in Ras Al Khaimah. This initiative helps support the UAE government's strategy 2021 that lays great emphasis on not wasting our natural resources, notably water.

### **Enhancement initiative in Ras Al Khaimah.**

EPDA coordinated with the Marine Environment Research Department of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in UAQ to release 47,100 Shaam (*Acanthopagrus datnia*) fingerlings with an average body weight of 7.60 grams in Khor Rams on October 11, 2016, 42,100 Gabit (*Rhabdosargus sarba*) fingerlings with an average body weight of 8.50gms in Khor RAK on October 12, 2016, and 83,000 Sheim (*Acanthopagrus datnia*) fingerlings with an average body weight of 4.34 grams in Khor Rams on October 27, 2016 as stock enhancement initiatives in Ras Al Khaimah.



### **EPDA at Youth Circle – Tolerance is thought, values and behavior**

EPDA attended the Youth Circle event that was held on October 26, 2016 in Ras Al Khaimah at the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development Center. This event that was titled 'Tolerance is thought, values and behaviour', was attended by Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Khalid Al Qasimi, Minister of State for Tolerance, and Shamma Suhail bin Fares, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, along with more than 30 young men and women of various nationalities.

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi stressed that promoting tolerance among young people is now a national priority with the aim of reconstruction of intellectual and cultural values, bolstering co-existence, openness and dialogue, as well as rooting respect for cultural diversity and acceptance of others intellectual, religious, and cultural value processes.





## WETEX 2016

The Water Technology, Energy and Environment Exhibition "WETEX", which was held in Dubai this year from October 4-6, was based on the slogan "at the forefront of sustainability". The focus areas for this exhibition were on the issues of rationalizing consumption of energy & water, protection of natural resources and building a sustainable environment, in addition to supporting the government's efforts in the UAE and the region to embrace sustainability and environmental protection, and the adoption of renewable energy and access to a green economy solutions.

And it saw the current session of the remarkable increase in the rate of participation, where he participated in more than 19,00 exhibitors from more than 46 countries from

different continents of the world, compared with 1696 exhibitors during last year's session, an increase of 12 percent in the number of exhibitors as well as the participation of over 18 national pavilions and more than 29 government entities, while the number of sponsors of the exhibition of more than 56 sponsors.

## Cheetah 'Artwork' at Emirates Park and Zoo Resort

The Emirates Park and Zoo Resort in Abu Dhabi has come up with a unique activity to support animal conservation. One of the cheetahs rescued from the Saudi Arabian border has been trained to paint using non-toxic finger paint and canvas. These paintings are now available for viewing for the general public, as well for sale. All the profits will go to conservation both within Emirates Park Zoo and with organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund and the Cheetah Conservation Fund. With fellow cub Shazly, Jasper is one of two cubs at the Abu Dhabi attraction to have survived being smuggled into the country.



Of a total of 15 cubs that were rescued by officials, all thought to have been taken from the wild, four were taken to Emirates Park Zoo and Resort. There, they were treated for malnourishment and other illness.. While two cubs succumbed to their illnesses within the first couple of days, Jasper and Shazly both recovered and socialised completely into the zoo environment.

Visitors can view Jasper and Shazly, as well as the 'artwork', at Emirates Park Zoo and Resort.

## Mohammed bin Rashid launches World Green Economy Organization

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched The World Green Economy Organization "WGEO" on October 5, 2016, in Dubai, in a move that aims to promote the green economy concept regionally and globally.

The WGEO is tasked to facilitate dialogue between countries and provide support and technical assistance to its country members.

Sheikh Mohammed said that the new organization will be supported and encouraged by governments and international organizations.

Sheikh Mohammed also said that the mission of this organisation is to enhance the culture and concept of Green Economy in the region and the world, and he hopes it will be an essential reference for research and studies related to clean energy and the protection of humans and environment. It will also focus on strengthening the foundations of cooperation between the countries of the world in the areas of innovation and technology, finance, and keep up with best practices globally.



### **Clothed in trash for a month, environmental activist raises awareness on consumption control**

Rob Greenfield is an environmental activist in New York awakening people to their existing garbage problem. He has been strolling around the streets of New York weighed down with trash. In everyday life, Greenfield is committed to leading as environmentally sound a life as possible, but for one month he has decided to behave like the average American and generate 4.5 pounds of trash per day.

So he's eating fast food — pizza, hamburgers and fries — and downing sodas — before stuffing the empty packaging, cups and pots into see-through bags strapped to his body for around seven hours a day.

He said, American people are cool with the recycling, with buying more ecofriendly products, but not many people want to reduce (consumption).



### **WHO: 90 % of world's population breathe dirty air**

Nine out of 10 people globally live in places with poor air quality, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said, blaming a worldwide air pollution crisis for being a major factor in millions of deaths per year.

In new report released at end of October, the health agency said 92 percent of people live in areas where air quality exceeds WHO limits.

It also published an interactive map detailing the global "health emergency".

"Some three million deaths a year are linked to exposure to outdoor air pollution," the UN body said in the report, which was based on data from 3,000 sites across the world.

According to WHO, Indoor air pollution can be just as deadly. In 2012, an estimated 6.5 million deaths (11.6 percent of all global deaths) were associated with indoor and outdoor air pollution together.



### **France bans plastic dishes to reduce pollution**

According to a new environmental law in France, plastic cutlery will not be sold anymore in the country. This new law gives producers time until 2020 to make sure that all disposable cutlery sold in France are made of materials that can be converted into fertilizer.

This latest effort by the country to be more environmentally friendly and reduce pollution is likely to affect nature lovers who regularly reach out for meals to be eaten in the open air. Hikers will no longer be able to buy plastic cups to drink their juices. Life in the office will also be different where the coffee machine will no longer dispense plastic cups.

While a number of other countries and some US states also have banned plastic bags, it appears that France is the first country to impose a blanket ban on all plastic cutlery.





**Houseflies** don't allow their short lifespans (14 days) to hinder their musical abilities. They always hum to send out their messages.



**Ostriches** can run faster than horses, and the male ostriches can roar like lions



**Elephants** can smell water up to 3 miles away!

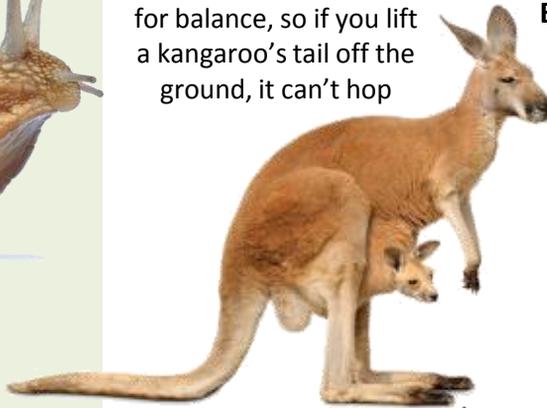
### Amazing facts about animals

It's mind-blowing to think about the multitude of animals that exist in this world. From the tiny flea to the great blue whale, each animal possesses a unique quality that makes it stand out from the rest. Below are some amazing facts that you didn't know about animals!



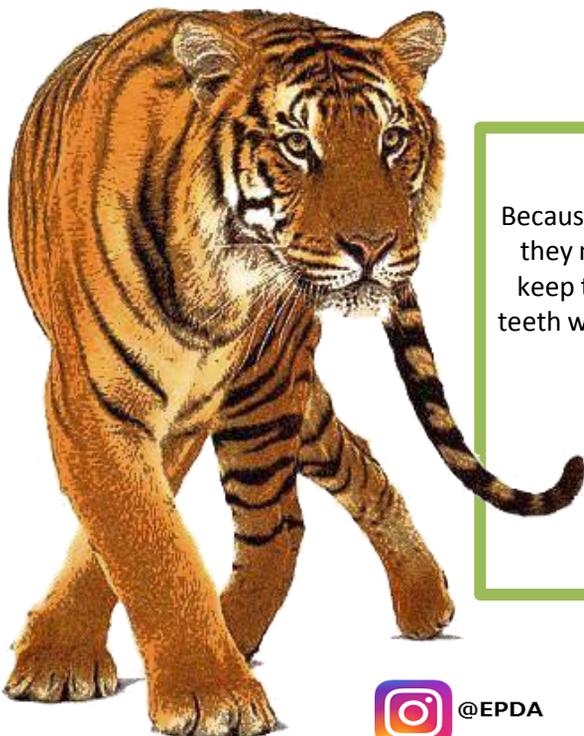
A **snail** can grow back a new eye if it loses one.

**Kangaroos** use their tails for balance, so if you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground, it can't hop



Butterflies have two compound eyes consisting of thousands of lenses, yet they can only see the colors red, green and yellow.

**Tigers** not only have stripes on their fur, they also have them on their skin. No two tigers ever have the same stripes.



Because beavers' teeth never stop growing, they must constantly gnaw on objects to keep them at a manageable length. Their teeth would eventually grow into their brain if they didn't maintain them!



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