

AL SIDRAH

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World Conference on Global Warming: Productivity of Ecosystems

His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi , Supreme Council Member , Ruler of Ras Al-Khaimah witnessed the opening of 4th International Conference On Global Warming: Ecosystem Productivity, organized by EPDA from 3 to 5 April. EPDA hosted a wide range of environmental specialists from various agencies, universities, Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission , NASA Ames Research Center , Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute , University of Tokyo Institute of Environmental and Water Research , Spain and act. Dr. Saif Al Ghais, EPDA Executive Director, stressed the keenness of the authority to preserve the environment and raise awareness, through participation in global events in the field of environmental conservation and its role in the adoption of conservation criteria in line with its strategic vision to contribute successfully to the creation of a sustainable health environment.



Fish stock enhancement initiative in Ras Al Khaimah.

EPDA and Marine Environment Research Department , Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, released fish fingerlings of Sobaity (*Dentex hasta*) 16000 with average body weight of 5.30 grams and Gabit (*Rhabdosargus sarba*), 56000 with average body weight of 2.40 grams in khor Rams on 18/04/2017. On 19 and 20 th April 2017, released fish fingerlings of 43000 Gabit (*Rhabdosargus sarba*), average body weight of 2.40 grams and 110000 Sheim (*Acanthopagrus datnia*), with average body weight of 2.13 grams fingerlings in Khor RAK as stock enhancement initiative in Ras Al Khaimah.



Exhibition on: Our environment in the lens

EPDA organized Exhibition on: Our environment in the lens celebration of Regional Environment Day Where the exhibition ensures the display of Photos of wild or marine organisms present in UAE, and the exhibition aims to raise awareness of these organisms and their importance in biodiversity. The exhibition also presented about 30 participations from different members of the community, and the number of visitors to the exhibition was about 200 visitors.



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 protection of our natural resources.

Prevent fishing of Arabi Sheri & Safi

Follow-up to the "Soft Control" initiative, which aims to ensure that fish traders and their vendors apply the ministerial decisions issued by the Authority, which developed specific mechanisms for the circulation of fish and marine life at sold and displayed sites within fishing ports, coasts and fish markets, in order to preserve the safety and quality of fish and other marine life, and to enhance the marine environment and protect its various habitats.

As stipulated in Ministerial Resolution No. 501 of 2015 , on the prevent of fishing and marketing of Arabi Sheri & Safi in the breeding season, during the period from 1 March to 30 April of each year. "

A committee of female employees from the authority visited fish markets in the emirate, with a target to ensuring the application of the "fish sellers and traders" from the Ministerial Resolution No. 501 of 2015, about organize prevent of fishing and marketing of Arabi Sheri & Safi in the breeding season, during the period from 1st March to 30th April each year.

Dr. Saif AlGais Executive Director of the EPDA said "that fish wealth is a vital part from our natural resources and an essential component, while providing an important amount from strategic food in the country , beside depends a large propotion of citizens on the profession of marine fishing in their livelihood , A fishing represent an essential profession and part of the UAE's heritage , pointing to the role of EPDA in the conservation and sustainability of natural resources.

On the other hand , Patrols of the Second Squadron of the Coast Guard, in cooperation with the EPDA , confiscated half ton of banned Arabi Sheri & Safi , in the possession of a fisherman on the shore of Mairid sea ,which weight ranges between 500 grams and 3 kilograms. The fishes sent to EPDA laboratories for biological study, and to determine the stage of their breeding during the current season.



Closies of 3 industrial facilities and fining 58.

The Environmental Protection and Development Authority closed three environmental facilities recently, and also, 58 facilities were fined because of it is violation of the standard environmental requirements, including concrete plants, brick factories , aluminum and iron manufacturing in RAK.

The Executive Director of the Authority Dr. Saif Al-Ghais illustrated, that the sanctions come within the authority efforts in applicate the general system for the environment in the emirate and its executive regulations. And to ensure that all industrial and development facilities commitment by requirements and standards. Drawing attention that to continue the authority In environmental inspections for the facilities, to ensure that it is applicate the approved requirements which contains protection and sustainability of the environment and the safety of the community environment



First smart, green mosque opens in Ras Al Khaimah

The first smart and green mosque was opened in Ras Al Khaimah after the completion of the development of the small old mosque in Al Maeyrid area. The project aimed to convert the old mosque to a smart and environmentally friendly one. The loudspeakers automatically work as soon as the Imam stands on his carpet, and automatically turn off with the end of prayers. The project's supervisors said the mosque saves about Dhs10,650 annually in water and electricity costs. Dr Hashim Al Rifa'i, supervisor of the smart mosque project, said "25 benefactors and charitable organizations from all over the UAE undertook the costs of maintaining and developing the mosque and turning it green and smart."

These included Dar Al Ber Society and Sharjah Charity International. Its name is "The Alsbtain Mosque" and is designed by Al Rifa'i. It has been developed and is being maintained by a group of donors and shareholders. Al Rifa'i said the smart mosque is powered by solar or renewable energy based on smart electronic sensors to manage and rationalize water and electricity and sensors and timers to manage the mosque's other activities and light consumption. He pointed out that the mosque is composed of environmentally friendly components according to Emirati and European standards. Its work is based on recycling consumed water and using rainwater to irrigate its green areas. The building is surrounded by various green areas which improve the air and beautify the area. Lights are solar powered, controlled by special sensors. Air conditioners operate on a smart system which controls the coolness of the mosque, in light of the summer and winter temperatures. Conditioning the water of the reservoirs is done with solar energy to match the heat with the two seasons. Ablution taps work with smart sensors which limit excessive water consumption. Rainwater is invested in ablution as well, after it is mechanically and electronically refined and it is also used for watering green areas. The doors of the mosque are automatically and electronically operated, in addition to emergency hand-held mechanical systems. Evergreen trees shade the courtyard of the mosque, and they are watered with a special timer. The outer area of the mosque is secured by sophisticated cameras and the mosque is equipped with fire alarms and fire extinguishers.



MoCCE bans import of live birds, poultry products from Republic of Croatia

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment banned import of all kinds of live domestic and wild birds, ornamental birds, chicks, hatching eggs and their thermally untreated wastes from the Republic of Croatia, due to reported outbreak of pathogenic avian influenza there. Dr. Majid Sultan Al Qasimi, Director of Animal Health and Development Department, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said in a statement that the decision was made following a notification



from the World Organization for Animal Health about the registration of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Croatia. While taking the following actions on March 19, he noted, "Prohibiting the import of all kinds of live domestic and wild birds, ornamental birds, chicks, hatching eggs and their thermally untreated wastes from the Republic of Croatia, as well as prohibiting the import of poultry meat and thermally untreated products and table eggs from the affected province of KRAPINSKO-ZAGORSKA." The ministry also allowed the import of thermally treated poultry products (treated meat and processed egg products) and thermally treated poultry waste from all of the Republic of Croatia, and also allowed prior to February 25, imports of thermally untreated products and table eggs from the affected province.

Notably, the ministry is keen to raise the level of food safety and ensure the provision of safe food to the consumer. It is working to implement Federal Law No. 10 of 2015 on the safety of food, which applies to all establishments licensed to trade food or feed, and consignments coming to the country or passing through its territory.

The law also applies to all stages of the food chain, from primary production through processing, until it reaches the consumer. The ministry is responsible for standardising and supervising food safety procedures in co-operation with concerned local food authorities. The ministry constantly working on developing the necessary policies, strategies and legislation to ensure food safety throughout the food chain as well as regulating trade activities to enhance food security. It also supports the national economy by regulating food handling activities, including import, export and re-export.

When a shipment of food products is received by the authorities in the country, the documents accompanying the consignments certificate of origin, health certificate and other required certificates such as Halal certificate are strictly verified.

The authorities also screen product identification cards to make sure it complies with the UAE standards, and examine samples of the food products through necessary laboratory tests to ensure they are free from harmful substances or contaminants.

Malaysia seizes \$3.1 million worth of Rhino horns at airport

Malaysian authorities have seized about \$3.1 million worth of Rhinoceros horns flown in from Mozambique via Qatar, the latest seizure in Asia of products from endangered species to feed demand for traditional remedies, officials.

Malaysia is a major transit point for the trade in endangered species to other Asian countries although a customs official told Reuters Malaysia was believed to have been the final destination of the 18 horns.

Customs officials at Kuala Lumpur International Airport found the more than 51 kg of horns, after a tip-off, packed in wooden crates in a cargo warehouse, airport customs director Hamzah Sundang told a news conference.

The horns had been shipped to Malaysia via Doha, Qatar, on a

Qatar Airways flight, using false documents and declared "Obra de arte" or "objects of art", Hamzah said.

"The address of the consignee and the agent of the recipient didn't exist. All the documentation used for the shipment were false," Hamzah told the news conference at the airport customs complex. No suspects had been detained and investigations were continuing, he said.

Global trade in Rhino horn is banned by a U.N. convention, but it is prized in some Asian countries as an ingredient in traditional medicines to treat everything from fever to cancer.



New rice fights off drought

Scientists at the RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science (CSRS) have developed strains of rice that are resistant to drought in real-world situations. Published in *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, the study reports that transgenic rice modified with a gene from the *Arabidopsis* plant yield more rice than unmodified rice when subjected to stress brought by natural drought. The study was carried out in collaboration with researchers from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia and the Japanese International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) in Japan.

As the amount of rice needed to help feed the global population increases, the consequences of drought-related crop reduction are becoming more severe. RIKEN scientists and their collaborators

tackled this issue by developing transgenic strains of rice that are more resistant to drought. Normally, plants adapt to drought-related stress by producing osmoprotectants -- molecules like soluble sugars that help prevent water from leaving cells. Galactinol synthase (GolS) is an enzyme needed to produce one of these important sugars called galactinol. In previous work, RIKEN scientists showed that *Arabidopsis* plants express the AtGolS2 gene in response to drought and salinity stress.

"The *Arabidopsis* GolS2 gene was first identified with basic research at RIKEN," explains RIKEN scientist Fuminori Takahashi. "Using it, we were able to improve resistance to drought-related stress, and increased the grain yield of rice in dry field conditions. This is one of the best model cases in which basic research knowledge has been successfully applied toward researching a resolution to a food-related problem." For this study, they created several lines of transgenic Brazilian and African rice that overexpress this gene, and with their CIAT and JIRCAS collaborators, tested how well the rice grew in different conditions in different years.

The results were very promising. First, they grew the different rice lines in greenhouse conditions and showed that the modified Brazilian and African rice did indeed show higher levels of galactinol than the unmodified control rice. Next, they tested tolerance to drought during the seedling growth period because this period often overlaps with seasonal drought. In order to precisely control this part of the experiment, it was conducted in a rainout shelter that allowed them to artificially create drought-like conditions. After three weeks, the modified strains had grown taller and showed less leaf-rolling, a common response to drought stress.

Finally, they tested the transgenic rice over a three-year period in different natural environments. Again, several of the transgenic strains showed higher grain yield under mild and severe natural drought. When might we see this useful rice on the market? According to Takahashi, the greatest barrier to commercial availability is that they used genetically modified (GM) technology to generate the GolS2 transgenic rice. "Now, we have begun our next collaborative project, in which we will generate useful rice without GM technology. It might take 5-10 years to reach our goal, but we must keep pressing forward because droughts and climate change might get worse in the future."



Plastic bags harmful effects**Damage to marine animals**

As soon as a portion of the plastic bags and other plastic waste reaches the seas and oceans either from nearby waste disposal sites, or through the disposal of waste in the sea, whether from transit vessels or from fishing vessels and others, animals may swallow these bags and plastic waste, or hinder their movement because of them and die.

Pollution of open areas

Light weight with excessive consumption and its survival without decomposition, around the plastic bags to the most important factor of pollution in public and open spaces within and outside cities, such as their presence on the shores and inside sea .

Nets made of nylon

The neta made of transparent nylon yarns, are banned in the UAE because of its damage to the marine environment and the depletion of stocks of fish wealth.

The effects of using nylon nets in the fishing

- ✓ Using nylon nets for fishing threatens marine organisms of various kinds
- ✓ In the event of loss of these nets at sea, they do not decompose and it will affect marine life



Important tips

Towards a green enterprise

1. Think before you print, do you already need it?
2. If you really need to print, you need smart solutions such as:
 - Print on both sides of the paper
 - Minimize line measurement and margins as much as possible
 - Use the convenient printing feature to fit the paper size
3. Replace print using digital files (.pdf) or scan files to share information by e-mail.



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