

Newsletter Al Sidreh

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3rd International Conference on Global Warming: Food Security



Global warming – induced climate change coupled with population growth and related anthropogenic activities are projected to have further increasing adverse impacts on agriculture and food production over the next 2 – 3 decades leading to food insecurity. Rising atmospheric temperature, increasing pollution, depleting water resources and eroding soils are the major driving factors for the global decrease in the output of crops, livestock and seafood. In order to ensure food security for our present and future generations, impact mitigation measures and adaptation strategies are needed urgently. To address and discuss the issues concerning climate change and food security, 3rd International Conference on “Global Warming: Food Security” has been organized by the (EPDA- RAK) during May 5-7, 2015 under the patronage of H. H. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah. The conference was inaugurated on May 5,

2015 by the welcome address delivered by Dr. Saif M. Al Ghais, Executive Director, EPDA – RAK, followed by Inaugural Speech delivered by H. E. Essa Al Ghurair, a leading figure in the UAE industry circles. Prof. Joanne De Mark from the Western Washington University, USA delivered the Inaugural Address. The conference was attended by national and international experts/scholars from the USA, Argentina, GCC countries, India, Sudan and Bangladesh. The scientific presentations and deliberations of the multidisciplinary conference focused on the current scientific knowledge on the adverse impacts of climate change and pollution on agriculture, food systems and livestock, soil and water resources, fishery and other terrestrial/ marine ecosystems. Impact mitigation measures and management of natural resources were discussed to ensure sustainable food production and security for the present and future generations.

EPDA.. Is responsible for regulating the activity of fishing in the Emirate

In the framework of the keenness of Ras Al Khaimah Government to maintain the protection of fisheries, H.H Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah has issued Emiri Decree No. / 11 / for the year 2015 on the organization of the fishing profession in the emirate. The degree stated that EPDA is the competent Authority to manage and regulate the fishing affairs and everything related to the protection and preservation of fish resources in the emirate. The degree also stated that no person may practice fishing in the emirate's fishing waters unless it

is licensed and registered with the competent authority accordance with the provisions of the law. To enforce the degree EPDA will build database for fishermen through conducting registration campaign from July 1 to September 1, 2015. After the end of the specified time period for registration, fishermen will be prevented from practicing fishing if not licensed with EPDA. EPDA will cooperate in this regard with the Coast Guard department to implement the degree. EPDA will also inspect and monitor the fish landing places and markets in order to protect and preserve the fish stocks.

EPDA Vision:

Protection of the environment and the sustainability of its resources.

EPDA Message:

Excellence in providing, monitoring and environmental awareness services and promote the concept of environmental citizenship, through the application of environmental laws and regulations and investment in relationship with our partners and conduct studies and research that contribute to the protection of our natural resources.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Prof. Saif Al-Qaydi

The Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences, United Arab Emirates University



H.E. Essa Al Ghurair

Chairman of Al Ghurair Resources LLC



Arq. Raúl Kalinsky

Architect, Argentina, INDEL, Salta Argentina CONSULTORA ANDINA SRL, Argentina



Prof. Anwar Huq

M. S., Ph.D., FAAM Maryland Pathogen Research Institute and Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, University of Maryland, College Park, USA



Prof. Joanne F DeMark PhD

Leadership Development Specialist Western's Leadership Advantage Western Washington University

Towards smart government

Under the interest of UAE's wise leadership in enhancing the services provided to citizens and residents in the future, and with the deadline set by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, two years ago approaching to the end, to transform from e-government to smart government. And all federal and local ministries and organizations since then, racing to catch up with smart government through the development of electronic services to the smart services and in order to attain the happiness of customers in various segments, whether they are locals, residents or even visitors who are considering coming to the UAE. EPDA was not in dispute behind and proceeded during the last period to work hard to catch up. Therefore EPDA has first launched electronic environmental licensing system on May 15, 2015 through its website and Ras Al Khaimah Government website. Allowing its customers from any spot in the world to apply for environmental license or renew their environmental permits through the registry in the previous sites and mobilize their

applications. EPDA has launched two smart mobile applications (mark / rakpay) to coincide with the electronic system. One for the customers which allow them to track and pay fees using e-Dirham or credit cards. The application also enables the customer to print the application from any device, Smartphone, tablet or computer without having to come to EPDA office and thus complete the licensing procedures in other concerned departments. The second smart application is for environmental inspectors. The application allows them to receive the tasks for inspections and prepare reports without having to return to office. The application will also allow the inspector in the future to access the database to inquire about the facility status saving time, cost and effort.

The total number of requests for new or renew licenses that have been received through these applications since the launch of the system (411) for all industrial and small vendors.

SPEAKERS



1. Dr. Liza M. Gernal

Al Khawarizmi International College, Abu Dhabi, UAE

2. Dr. Sanjay Sethi

Signature Agri Ventures Ltd, Kenya.

3. Dr. Salina Parveen

University of Maryland Eastern Shore, US

4. Dr. Rashied S Modawi

University Khartoum, Sudan

5. Dr. Arash Nejatian

Arabian Peninsula Regional Program. Dubai, UAE

6. Dr. Mohamed Mostafa A. Mohamed

United Arab Emirates University, UAE

7. Dr. Saber Hussein

United Arab Emirates University, UAE

8. Ms. Rahaf Moutaz-Billah Ajaj

United Arab Emirates University, UAE

9. Dr. Tarek Merabtene

University of Sharjah, UAE

10. Dr. Hussein Harahsheh

Global Scan Technologies L.L.C, UAE

11. Dr. Mohamed A. Badawi

General Emirates Environmental Solutions Emirates
Bio Fertilizer Factory Al Ain, UAE

12. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar

American University of Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

13. Dr. Yousef Nazzal

Abu Dhabi University, UAE

14. Dr. Irshad Ahmad

American University of Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

15. Dr. Sanjay Gairola

Sharjah Seed Bank & Herbarium Laboratory
Sharjah Research Academy, UAE

16. Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem

American University of Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

17. Dr. Eihab Fathelrahman

United Arab Emirates University, UAE

18. Dr. B. Madhusoodana Kurup

University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, India

19. Dr. Adnan Jameel Salama

King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

20. Dr. Najam Khurshid

Global Environmental Management Services, RAK

21. Dr. Walid Elshorbagy

United Arab Emirates University, UAE

22. Dr. Mohsin Siddique

University of Sharjah, UAE

23. Dr. Ismail M.K. Saadoun

University of Sharjah, UAE

24. Mr. Tim Niemier

Seattle, USA

25. Dr. Sophy Thomson

Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah, UAE

26. Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Abdul Hai

University of Karachi, Pakistan





The Exhibition by the following industries was also organized to showcase their products:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Al Ghurair Resources LLC | 2. Mustang |
| 3. RAK Ceramics | 4. UTICO |
| 5. Saver Glass LLC | 6. Falcon Pack |
| 7. ARC International | 8. Eco Fresh |

The conference concluded on May 7, 2015 with the recommendations for various adaptations strategies and impact mitigation measures to be implemented locally and globally. These recommendations included:

1. The importance of multidisciplinary approach.
2. The importance of international collaboration and solidarity.
3. Implementation of the IPCC regulation for reduction of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) and ozone depleting gases.
4. Management of water resources.
5. Use of organic fertilizers and pesticides to maintain soil fertility and sustainable food production.
6. Crop pattern modification and the use of new farming technology (e.g. genetically modified (GM organisms) for better food productivity.
7. Prevention of food chain losses and water wastage.
8. Management of fishery sector and development of aquaculture practices.
9. Regular interaction and knowledge sharing amongst research/teaching/training organizations, government agencies/policy makers and food/ agriculture workers.
10. Participation of media, non-government organizations, government agencies and academic institutions in creating public awareness of the impacts of global warming and climate change on food security and other environmental components, and their mitigation and protection measures.

Dr Saif M. Al Ghais the Executive Director of EPDA in his concluding session thanked the speakers and organizers for holding such a successful conference along with the recommendations for the Government of RAK also declared the topic of the IV International Conference on “Global Warming – Productivity”

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