SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Al Ain University



جامعة العين
AL AIN UNIVERSITY

Contents

1. A sustained cross-sector dialogue system 6

Al Ain University Organizes the Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment 6

More than 54 university students from 8 Arab countries presented their research at Al Ain University 8

AAU organizes the 2nd AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium 9

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024 10

12th World Environmental Education Congress aligns with UAE Green Education Partnerships Roadmap 11

How the dialogue operates 14

2. Global Digital Health Conference 2024 15

The 2024 Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange & Empowerment Conference 17

The 2024 Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange & Empowerment Conference 18

UAE (Al Ain University) Global Digital Health Conference 2024 19

Al Ain University is organizing the "Global Digital Health" conference in Abu Dhabi on September 24. 20

The Global Digital Health Conference kicks off in Abu Dhabi 21

3. World Environmental Education Congress 2024 23

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024 23

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi to Host 12th World Environment Education Congress in 2024 24

12th World Environmental Education Congress aligns with UAE Green Education Partnerships Roadmap 26

An MOU between Al Ain University and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi 29

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi partners with 8 UAE Universities to collaborate on scientific research 30

Abu Dhabi Environment Agency announces official launch of ADERN 31

4. Annual Student Conference: sustainability after COP28 33

The annual student conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs 34

5. Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium 35

AAU organizes the 2nd AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium 35

Recurring environmental dialogue 36

AAU organizes the 7th Annual Environmental Day 2024 36

Eighth Annual Environmental Day: Promoting Awareness of Climate Finance and Environmental Sustainability 37
6. Government dialogue, training and professional standards 39
The Global Digital Health Conference kicks off in Abu Dhabi 39
12th World Environmental Education Congress aligns with UAE Green Education Partnerships Roadmap 41
Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi partners with 8 UAE Universities to collaborate on scientific research 43
Abu Dhabi Environment Agency announces official launch of ADERN 43
Ministry of Economy & Tourism launches 'Knowledge and Innovation Hub' to strengthen collaboration with UAE's academic sector in economic policy, research, and studies 45
7. Training and dialogue with nonprofit partners 46
Nahyan bin Mubarak announces launch of National Identity Clubs in UAE's schools, universities 47
A Workshop entitled "My Farming, My Self-Sufficiency" Workshop in Collaboration with the General Women's Union 49
8. Cross-sector research and implementation partnerships 50
Al Ain University and Siemens Energy collaborate to Foster Research and Innovation in the Energy Sector 50
Al Ain University Strengthens Partnerships with Leading Engineering and Technology Companies 51
Pioneering Event and MoU with the Institute of Management Accountants 52
9. Colleges and universities as dialogue partners 54
Tripartite Collaboration Between Al Ain University, Gulf Medical University, and Dubai Pharmacy to Standardize the Pharmacy Graduation Exam 54
Collaboration Agreement Between Al Ain University and Al Noor University to Strengthen Academic and Research Cooperation 56
Al Ain University signs an MOU with Murdoch University 57
Cooperation Agreement Between Al Ain University and MSU in Malaysia 57
AAU Signs an MOU with Skyline University College 58
An MOU with Zhejiang Institute of Geology in China 59
College of Pharmacy, GMU Joins Hands with Dubai Pharmacy College and Al-Ain University to Create a Standardized Exit Exam 60
10. Resources, dialogue formats and outcomes 62
11. The dialogue platform remains active and expanding 66
Eighth Annual Environmental Day: Promoting Awareness of Climate Finance and Environmental Sustainability 66

AAU Hosts the First Concrete Convention 2025, Bringing Together 20 Companies and 7 Leading Universities 67
MOU Signed Between College of Business at Al Ain University and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan 68
Ministry of Economy & Tourism launches ‘Knowledge and Innovation Hub’ to strengthen collaboration with UAE’s academic sector in economic policy, research, and studies 69
A dialogue session at Al Ain University on the role of the "Nation Fund" in supporting Emirati talents 71
Al Ain University Successfully Concludes the International Conference on Smart Management, Green Technologies, and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems 72
12. Governance and strategic integration 75
13. Institutional conclusion 76
Evidence register | Framework and flagship conference 77
Evidence register | 2024 conferences and government dialogue 78
Evidence register | Nonprofit, research and industry partners 79
Evidence register | University networks and continuity 80

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the Sustainable Development Goals

Government | Civil Society | Universities | Industry | Research

DIRECT RESPONSE: YES

Al Ain University initiates and participates in structured cross-sectoral dialogue about the Sustainable Development Goals. During 2024, AAU convened government authorities, universities, health and research organisations, civil-society partners and industry through international conferences, symposia, workshops and partnership forums. AAU also participated in government-led international dialogue whose recommendations informed the Abu Dhabi Roadmap for environmental education and sustainable development.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

1. A sustained cross-sector dialogue system

Al Ain University uses conferences, research symposia, stakeholder workshops and formal partnerships to bring sectors together around shared SDG challenges. These forums combine the resources of government and regulators, academic and clinical expertise, civil-society reach, industry technology and implementation experience, and student research and community participation. They move from awareness to evidence exchange, skills development, collaborative research, policy discussion and practical solutions.

The 2024 evidence demonstrates both dimensions of the indicator. AAU initiated cross-sectoral dialogues by hosting the Global Digital Health Conference, the Annual Student Conference on sustainable university life after COP28, the second Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium, the seventh Annual Environmental Day and partner workshops. AAU also participated in the government-led World Environmental Education Congress, which brought policymakers, international organisations, NGOs, educators and researchers together and culminated in the Abu Dhabi Roadmap.

2024 dialogue route	Sectors engaged	SDG contribution	Role
Global Digital Health Conference	Government, regulator, universities, hospitals, researchers, technology and private sector	Health systems, innovation, equity, governance and partnership	AAU initiated
World Environmental Education Congress	Government, UNESCO/UN bodies, NGOs, universities, educators and decision-makers	Environmental education, climate action, green skills and biodiversity	AAU participated
Annual Student Conference	Arab universities, university association, cultural-education leadership and student researchers	Sustainable university life, COP28, health, work, media and volunteering	AAU initiated
Health and Biomedical Symposium	Universities, health researchers, postgraduate students and clinical disciplines	Health research, AI, pharmacy, nutrition and medical engineering	AAU initiated
Government and nonprofit workshops	Ministry, municipality, public-interest organisations, NGOs, professionals and students	Economic knowledge, skills, employability, youth and community resilience	Joint delivery

Public evidence: E01 | E03 | E04 | E11 | E17 | E19 | E22 | E24

Al Ain University Organizes the Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment



Al Ain University organized the "Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" at its Abu Dhabi campus from September 24 to 26, 2024. The event was organized in collaboration with the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK, with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by Professor Amjad Qandil (representing the Commission for Academic Accreditation - Ministry of Education), Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Vice Chairman of Al Ain University's Board of Trustees), Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University), Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK), and Professor Ismail Matalqa (President of Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University), alongside several prominent figures from various universities, medical centers, and institutions. The conference also saw participation from a large number of academic and economic elites, faculty members, specialists, and a group of enthusiasts and followers in the scientific field.

The conference aimed to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing opportunities to access the latest outputs of research and development in innovative digital healthcare.

The event featured a series of keynote speeches focusing on digital health foresight, specialized workshops, and the presentation of outstanding research papers. Additionally, a dedicated PhD research forum was held in this vital field. The conference also included an exhibition showcasing leading providers of digital healthcare services and products.

In a special statement to Emirates News Agency, Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK) said: "The Academy is the sponsor and founder of the Global Digital Health Conference worldwide, and this is the first time the conference is being held in the Middle East and North Africa. The field of digital health is very promising, and we expect it to help bridge the gap in providing healthcare to everyone, everywhere around the world."

He added, "The conference includes a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the Academy who have developed workshops on the use of robotics in orthopedic surgeries and joint replacements of the knee and hip. We will also present our experience in collaboration with Gilmer in France in a workshop on using artificial intelligence to identify fractures."

Professor Oudah continued, "The conference will highlight key digital applications in pathology, mythology, smart hospitals, and pharmaceutical operations management, with the participation of our colleagues from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. The event will also focus on scientific research and development. We look forward to achieving scientific research outcomes that serve humanity through the formation of research and scientific teams from each workshop. We appreciate Al Ain University’s efforts in hosting this conference, which is the first of its kind in the region."

On his part, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University) affirmed, "The convening of the 'Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment' at Al Ain University reflects our firm commitment to supporting innovation and contributing to shaping the future of digital healthcare. In collaboration with our partners, we aim to make a tangible impact on research and development in this important field."

He added, "This conference is an exceptional opportunity to exchange ideas and expertise, and explore the latest innovations and technologies that will transform healthcare as we know it today. We are confident that the discussions and workshops during this event will help drive technological advancements in the healthcare sector and enhance the capabilities of both local and international talents to keep pace with global developments."

More than 54 university students from 8 Arab countries presented their research at Al Ain University



Under the patronage of Her Highness Dr. Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan Cultural and Educational Institutions, Al Ain University represented by the Deanship of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Tolerance club, organized the Annual Student Conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs 2024

from February 19 to 21, 2024, under the theme: "Sustainability of University Life in Light of COP 28."

The conference attracted over 54 student researchers from eight Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. The conference covered various topics, including basic medical sciences, sustainable development and the role of university students in promoting it, artificial intelligence and its role in creating new job opportunities, and digital media and its role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship among university students.

The opening ceremony was attended by Her Highness Dr. Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan, who expressed her delight at being present at Al Ain University, emphasizing the humanitarian, academic, and cultural significance of the institution. She stated, "The theme of this year's conference, 'Sustainability of University Life,' presents significant challenges as it reflects the importance of the role universities play in achieving sustainable development and ensuring the quality of students' future and well-being." She highlighted the importance of scientific research, encouraging students to participate in initiatives and adopt a lifestyle that supports sustainability through their consumption choices and involvement in research focused on sustainability. She added, "Sustainability is not just a goal we seek to achieve but an ongoing journey of learning and development."

The opening ceremony was also attended by His Excellency Prof. Amro Ezzat Salama, the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, Dr. Noor El-Deen Atatreh, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, President of Al Ain University, university presidents from Arab countries, Al Ain University professors, and participating students.

Dr. Noor El-Deen Atatreh, emphasized Al Ain University's commitment to preparing a new generation of high-level researchers, enhancing their research capabilities and scientific writing skills in line with the vision of the UAE, which supports scientific research and encourages youth innovation and creativity. He commended the university's efforts in organizing scientific conferences, cultural workshops, and creating an integrated educational and cultural environment.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, highlighted the distinctive feature of this conference, which lies in the participation of students. He emphasized the general importance of scientific research and its specific significance for university students in terms of enhancing their knowledge, skills, and gaining new experiences in various fields. He expressed gratitude to all those involved in organizing the conference and the participating students, stating that their involvement in such conferences is a valuable asset. He affirmed Al Ain University's commitment to organizing more conferences focusing on scientific research and promoting student participation at the local, Arab, and global levels.

Prof. Ibtehal Abu Rezeq, Vice-President of the University for Development and Follow-up Affairs, Dean of Student Affairs, and the Secretary-General of the Association of Student Affairs Deans, noted that organizing this conference is part of Al Ain University's commitment as the headquarters of the Association of Student Affairs Deans in Arab universities affiliated with the Association of Arab Universities. The aim is to support researchers and scientific research while encouraging students to engage in research and innovation. She added that the conference aims to encourage students to participate in scientific research, developing their skills, refining their capabilities, providing opportunities for exchanging experiences among Arab university students, creating an environment for collaborative student work in scientific research, and exploring the potential and talents of young students in various fields and domains.

AAU organizes the 2nd AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium



The College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University organized the second AAU Health and Biomedical postgraduate Symposium at Abu Dhabi Campus. More than 100 postgraduate students from 10 Arab and foreign countries participated, presenting over 120 research papers.

The symposium included diverse lectures, group discussions, scientific and social activities, and cultural games. It provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to enhance their scientific knowledge, develop skills, explore various career opportunities, interact with experts, and expand their professional

network through the postgraduate student research competition. The competition covers several fields, including health and medical sciences, pharmacy and drug discovery, artificial intelligence in health sciences, medical engineering, nutrition and food sciences, pharmacy practice, and clinical sciences. The student research competition consists of three categories: oral presentations, poster presentations, and a three-minute thesis competition.

Al Ain University students won 8 awards in various research fields. Additionally, Dubai Medical College for Girls received 6 awards, the United Arab Emirates University received 5 awards, and 4 awards each went to the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Abu Dhabi University. The University of Sharjah secured 3 awards, while the Gulf Medical University and Qatar University each received 2 awards. The Arab University of Beirut, Hashemite University in Jordan, Ajman University, Khalifa University, Egypt International University, and Al-Zarqa University in Jordan each received one award.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, the AAU President, emphasized that the university places great importance on scientific research and encourages students, especially postgraduate students, to produce scientific research and work on publishing it in reputable scientific journals. He highlighted that scientific research enhances students' skills for their future careers. He also affirmed that Al Ain University has been keen on establishing several research centers and scientific laboratories to support research activities.

In turn, Prof. Mohammed Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University, highlighted the role played by the university's administration in supporting students through organizing conferences and workshops. These initiatives contribute to enhancing students' skills and provide them with opportunities to build relationships with individuals who share common interests in their fields of work.

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024



Al Ain university (AAU) actively engaged in the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), to emphasize its commitment to environmental issues and sustainable development. AAU’s professors presented a variety of research presentations discussing environmental issues, and the university also participated in the accompanying exhibition, showcasing its community initiatives in climate, environmental sustainability, and environmental education.

The hosting of this global conference by the United Arab Emirates reflects its commitment to environmental sustainability. Al Ain University, aligned with this vision, is dedicated to applying the highest standards of environmental sustainability through education, scientific research, community activities, and university infrastructure. The university is committed to providing high-quality education,

organizing conferences, workshops, and launching initiatives that serve the youth and contribute to enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for the future.

Al Ain University takes pride in its ranking as the 5th in the United Arab Emirates in the 2024 QS World Sustainability Ranking. Additionally, the university has achieved advanced positions in Sustainable Development Goals, ranking 6th globally in Goal 4 (Quality Education), 33rd globally in Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and 88th globally in Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The university is also a member of the Universities Climate Network, a network of 33 local universities collaborating in education, research, and community service in environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

Al Ain university offers a diverse range of programs and specializations that align with its educational outcomes and sustainable development goals. Al Ain University actively seeks to strengthen its relationships and establish collaborative agreements with external institutions interested in environmental issues, including the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.

Al Ain University made a notable contribution to COP 28, with its professors delivering oral presentations and research papers addressing environmental, climate, sustainability, and artificial intelligence issues. The university's students also participated in the Climate Ambassadors program, innovation competitions, and entrepreneurship challenges.

The university prioritizes the promotion of scientific research and encourages professors to conduct innovative research that serves the environment, addresses climate challenges, and generates creative solutions.

12th World Environmental Education Congress aligns with UAE Green Education Partnerships Roadmap



The Abu Dhabi Roadmap, a high-level plan outlining global recommendations to bolster Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), was revealed during the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC2024) at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). A culmination of four days of discussions, workshops and events, the roadmap outlines a call to action to catalyse and reinvigorate efforts in EE and ESD focused on addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis.

Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, Secretary-General at Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, said: “The Abu Dhabi Roadmap represents a pivotal moment on our path towards a more sustainable and resilient

future, and affirms the UAE's dedication to enhancing EE to help further catalyse us on that journey. The WEEC2024 served as a dynamic stage to unveil this environmental plan. The mass of knowledge gained and the ideas which have inspired us over the course of this congress are fitting illustrations of the power of educational initiatives. Now, the roadmap will continue to propel us in our ongoing work to a greener future."

Developed with input from a range of stakeholders across 83 countries including UNESCO, IUCN, UNEP, UAE Ministry of Education, UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE), Department of Education and Knowledge in Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority (ECA), as well as a whole host of global environmental education experts, the roadmap was introduced by Ahmed Baharoon, Executive Director, Environmental Information, Science and Outreach Management, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi. This unveiling occurred during a dedicated session on the fourth day of WEEC2024.

During the announcement, he emphasised that the discussions from the congress had helped inform The Abu Dhabi Roadmap. However, its inception traces back to COP28, where urgent calls for action and intensified efforts in Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development were echoed to confront the 'Code Red for humanity' represented by the Triple Planetary Crisis.

Julia Heiss, Team Leader for Education and Sustainable Development, UNESCO, said: "The 2024 World Environmental Education Congress successfully brought together stakeholders from the global Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) community globally. The event served as a platform for exchanging ideas, innovations, and the latest developments in the field. This global community of practice aims at transforming education to support a more sustainable future not only at the international level but also regionally through the network of Regional Centers of Expertise, and at the country level through the development of comprehensive Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) initiatives for the year 2030."

Abdul-Majeid Haddad, Deputy Regional Director for West Asia, UNEP, said: "Education is one of the key vehicles to achieve a sustainable future. The Triple Planetary crisis is a clear and present danger, one that needs a coordinated and collaborative action. UNEP's Strategy is guided by the triple planetary crisis. We are indeed encouraged to see that Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has focused on this crisis and has managed to elicit a response from environment educators from all across the world to take collaborative action towards contributing to tackling this crisis in the 12th World Environment Education Congress conducted in Abu Dhabi."

Key recommendations include the need to urgently ramp up the pace and scale of EE and ESD, and ensure they are prominent elements in both national and global agendas, with the roadmap highlighting the essential nature of events such as WEEC to foster better integration and amplify the impact of shared goals.

The plan also encourages the harnessing of AI and smart technologies to help achieve environmental goals while underscoring the importance of placing ethics and values at the centre of EE and ESD to help foster emotional connections between society and nature. The complexities of the present day were also acknowledged, the roadmap sets out recommendations for evaluative learning as a feature for improving the efficacy of EE and ESD interventions and combining green skills with green jobs to drive sustainable development effectively.

The roadmap identifies several key actions that tackle climate change, waste management, and biodiversity loss, and can be implemented by countries and communities across the globe. In terms of Abu Dhabi's implementation, EAD will actively participate in global initiatives including the Greening Education Partnership with UNESCO, alongside expanding local programmes such as the Sustainable Schools Initiative. The efforts will involve promoting circularity and implementing measures such as the ban on single-use plastics, complemented by awareness campaigns to drive behavioural change.

To combat biodiversity loss, Abu Dhabi is collaborating with UNEP and partners such as the Rewilding Academy in the Netherlands and Plant for Planet in Germany to to respond to Challenge 6.3 – Education of the UNEP Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Action Plan. To further strengthen these efforts, plans are underway to establish a Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development in Abu Dhabi. Additionally, close collaboration with partners like IUCN underscores Abu Dhabi's dedication to developing nature-based learning recommendations.

During his speech about Abu Dhabi’s contribution to the global roadmap, Ahmed Baharoon said: “The roadmap identifies several key actions that tackle climate change, waste management, and biodiversity loss, and can be implemented by countries and communities across the globe. In terms of Abu Dhabi's implementation, EAD will actively participate in global initiatives like the Greening Education Partnership with UNESCO, alongside expanding local programmes such as the Sustainable Schools Initiative to cover all schools. The efforts will involve promoting circularity and implementing measures like the recent ban on single-use plastics, complemented by awareness campaigns to drive behavioural change.

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During his speech, Ahmed Baharoon invited the world to join the Abu Dhabi Roadmap and help implement its recommendations, drawn from a wealth of experience and expertise. Ahmed Baharoon said: “We seek partners, collaborations, and networks to help connect people and create a better tomorrow.”

Day four of the congress marked the end of the event’s engaging conversation and knowledge sharing, which set the foundation for an exploration of Abu Dhabi’s ecological and educational sites in a series of field trips on day five, seamlessly integrating theory into hands-on experiences.

Ahead of the roadmap announcement, the Four Thematic Chairs of WEEC2024; Antonella Bachiorri, Professor of Didactics of Biology and Environmental Education at the University of Parma, Italy; Richard Perry, Chair of the Socio-Scientific Committee; David Zandvliet, Professor at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, and Gayatri Raghwa, Senior Environment Education Consultant at UNEP, India, summarised the outcome of the event. They addressed the challenges identified from discussions across the four days, highlighting the dimensions that need to be considered, the collective goals of environmental education, and the means to achieve them.

In anticipation of future environmental education endeavours, an exciting announcement was made regarding the 13th World Environmental Education Congress. The upcoming congress is set to take place in Perth, Australia, promising further engagement and advancements in the field of environmental education.

How the dialogue operates

Shared challenge → partners frame needs in health, environment, education, employment, technology and sustainable development.

Knowledge exchange → keynotes, panels, workshops, research presentations, exhibitions and question-and-answer sessions combine evidence from different sectors.

Collaborative capacity → training, joint research, professional standards and inter-university networks build the ability to act.

Outputs and continuity → roadmaps, research agendas, partnerships, publications, student projects and recurring event series sustain implementation and learning.

AAU-INITIATED DIALOGUE

2. Global Digital Health Conference 2024

From 24 to 26 September 2024, AAU hosted the Global Digital Health Conference – Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment at its Abu Dhabi campus. AAU organised the conference with the Global Academy for Digital Health in the United Kingdom, with support from the Dubai Health Authority and IEEE. The opening included a representative of the Commission for Academic Accreditation within the UAE Ministry of Education, together with university leaders, clinicians, researchers and international specialists.

The conference was expressly designed to address strategic needs in digital health and give policymakers access to current research and development. Its programme covered digital-health foresight; standards and interoperability; smart hospitals; telemedicine; data analytics; quality-of-life modelling for non-communicable diseases; robotics; disability and assistive technology; pharmaceutical systems; governance and change management; and legal, social and ethical issues. Keynotes, plenary discussions, specialist workshops, research papers, a doctoral consortium and a technology exhibition created multiple dialogue formats.

This was a genuinely cross-sector forum. Public evidence identifies government and accreditation representatives, universities, medical centres, healthcare professionals, international researchers, government institutions and private-sector exhibitors. Each sector contributed a different resource: regulatory and policy context, academic evidence, clinical experience, technology solutions, research capacity and implementation insight. Independent coverage by Emirates News Agency and the Association of Arab Universities corroborates the event and its regional significance.

Public evidence: E11 | E12 | E13 | E14 | E15 | E16



Evidence exhibit 1. Participants at AAU's Global Digital Health Conference, Abu Dhabi campus, 24-26 September 2024. Sources E11-E16.

Al Ain University organized the "Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" at its Abu Dhabi campus from September 24 to 26, 2024. The event was organized in collaboration with the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK, with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by Professor Amjad Qandil (representing the Commission for Academic Accreditation - Ministry of Education), Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Vice Chairman of Al Ain University's Board of Trustees), Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University), Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK), and Professor Ismail Matalqa (President of Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University), alongside several prominent figures from various universities, medical centers, and institutions. The conference also saw participation from a large number of academic and economic elites, faculty members, specialists, and a group of enthusiasts and followers in the scientific field.

The conference aimed to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing opportunities to access the latest outputs of research and development in innovative digital healthcare.

The event featured a series of keynote speeches focusing on digital health foresight, specialized workshops, and the presentation of outstanding research papers. Additionally, a dedicated PhD research forum was held in this vital field. The conference also included an exhibition showcasing leading providers of digital healthcare services and products.

In a special statement to Emirates News Agency, Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK) said: "The Academy is the sponsor and founder of the Global Digital Health Conference worldwide, and this is the first time the conference is being held in the Middle East and North Africa. The field of digital health is very promising, and we expect it to help bridge the gap in providing healthcare to everyone, everywhere around the world."

He added, "The conference includes a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the Academy who have developed workshops on the use of robotics in orthopedic surgeries and joint replacements of the knee and hip. We will also present our experience in collaboration with Gilmer in France in a workshop on using artificial intelligence to identify fractures."

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confident that the discussions and workshops during this event will help drive technological advancements in the healthcare sector and enhance the capabilities of both local and international talents to keep pace with global developments."

The 2024 Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange & Empowerment Conference



The gDigiHealth.KEE Conference is the Annual Global Academy for Digital Health Conference that is envisioned to become a global forum for knowledge exchange of the state-of-the-art research and development in digital health technologies, and for enabling and empowering stakeholders engaged in enriching and enhancing the patient healthcare journey.

The 2024 gDigiHealth.KEE conference is jointly organized by the Global Academy for Digital Health, UK, and Al Ain University, United Arab Emirates.

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Global Academy for Digital Health (GA4DH) defines Digital Health as "the employment of digital technologies to enable and empower healthcare providers, whether people or organizations, to deliver innovative solutions to enrich and enhance the patient healthcare journey". The gDigiHealth.KEE conference is inspired by GA4DH's mission, and accordingly, the conference is aimed at contributing to reducing the healthcare divide amongst nations and people through the employment of digital health technologies.

The 2024 gDigiHealth.KEE Conference seeks to attract distictive submissions of research papers, doctoral research proposals, and workshops/tutorial proposals in various digital health research and development areas. In particualr, the 2024 gDigiHealth.KEE Conference is aimed at addressing unmet needs of digital healthcare strategy and policymakers, and providing accessibility to next generation novel digital healthcare research and development output in the following areas:

- AI and the Patient Journey
- Digital Pathology Technologies Frameworks, Processes, and Technologies
- Radiomics Methods, Processes and Technologies
- Epigenetics digital processes, methods, and frameworks

- Smart Hospital Frameworks
- Digital Health Standards
- Quality of Life (QoL) Modelling for NCDs
- Data Analytics Methods and Approaches to Digital Healthcare
- Digital Healthcare Frameworks for Caring for People with Disabilities
- Telemedicine & Intelligent Digital Platforms
- Robotics-enabled Surgery
- Clinical Cancer Informatics
- Digital Tumor Boards, Methods and Technologies
- Digital Health Knowledge Management, Methods, and Technologies
- Healthcare Quality Governance and Change Management with Digital Health
- Information Strategy & Architecture for Digital Health
- Process architectural frameworks for Digital Health
- Legal, Social, Ethical, and Professional (LSEP) for Digital Health

The 2024 Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange & Empowerment Conference



UAE (Al Ain University) Global Digital Health Conference 2024



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In a special statement to Emirates News Agency, Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK) said: “The Academy is the sponsor and founder of the Global Digital Health Conference worldwide, and this is the first time the conference is being held in the Middle East and North Africa. The field of digital health is very promising, and we expect it to help bridge the gap in providing healthcare to everyone, everywhere around the world.”

He added, “The conference includes a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the Academy who have developed workshops on the use of robotics in orthopedic surgeries and joint replacements of the

knee and hip. We will also present our experience in collaboration with Gilmer in France in a workshop on using artificial intelligence to identify fractures."

Professor Oudah continued, "The conference will highlight key digital applications in pathology, mythology, smart hospitals, and pharmaceutical operations management, with the participation of our colleagues from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. The event will also focus on scientific research and development. We look forward to achieving scientific research outcomes that serve humanity through the formation of research and scientific teams from each workshop. We appreciate Al Ain University's efforts in hosting this conference, which is the first of its kind in the region."

On his part, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University) affirmed, "The convening of the 'Global Digital Health Conference – Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment' at Al Ain University reflects our firm commitment to supporting innovation and contributing to shaping the future of digital healthcare. In collaboration with our partners, we aim to make a tangible impact on research and development in this important field."

He added, "This conference is an exceptional opportunity to exchange ideas and expertise, and explore the latest innovations and technologies that will transform healthcare as we know it today. We are confident that the discussions and workshops during this event will help drive technological advancements in the healthcare sector and enhance the capabilities of both local and international talents to keep pace with global developments."

Al Ain University is organizing the "Global Digital Health" conference in Abu Dhabi on September 24.

Al Ain, September 15 / WAM / Al Ain University is organizing the "Global Digital Health - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" conference at the university's headquarters in Abu Dhabi from September 24 to 26, in cooperation with the Global Academy for Digital Health in the United Kingdom, and with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The conference aims to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing access to the latest research and development outputs in innovative digital healthcare.

The conference will feature a series of insightful keynote lectures on digital health, specialized workshops, presentations of outstanding research papers, and a dedicated forum for doctoral research in this vital field. A distinguished exhibition showcasing leading providers of digital healthcare services and products will also be held alongside the conference.

The inaugural "Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" conference, held in 2024, is a leading platform for showcasing outstanding research papers, doctoral research proposals, and educational workshops across various fields of digital health research and development. The conference focuses specifically on addressing strategic gaps in digital healthcare and providing innovative solutions to support policymaking, as well as promoting access to the latest research innovations and developments in diverse areas including artificial intelligence and patient journey, digital pathology technology processes, radiological image analysis techniques, and digital frameworks for epigenetics.

The conference will review smart hospital frameworks, digital health standards, quality of life (QoL) modeling for non-communicable diseases, data analysis methods and techniques for digital healthcare, care for people with disabilities, telemedicine practices and smart digital platforms, robot-assisted surgery, bioinformatics, as well as healthcare quality governance and change management with digital health, and information strategy and architecture for digital health.

During the conference, a series of key workshops will be held, presented by a select group of experts from around the world, including: a workshop on data analysis for characterizing speech, language and hearing disorders; smart hospitals, process engineering and workflow modeling; pharmacy automation and informatics; artificial intelligence and clinical radiology; the workings of the musculoskeletal system; digital pathology and artificial intelligence; digital pharmacovigilance; robot-assisted orthopedics; and a workshop on methods and challenges in cancer genetics.

The Global Digital Health Conference kicks off in Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi, September 24 (WAM) - The "Global Digital Health - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" conference kicked off today at Al Ain University in Abu Dhabi and will continue until September 26. It is organized in cooperation with the Global Academy for Digital Health in the United Kingdom, and with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The opening was attended by Dr. Amjad Qandil, representing the Commission for Academic Accreditation at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Nour El-Din Atatrah, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Al Ain University, Dr. Ghaleb Al-Rifai, President of Al Ain University, Dr. Mohammed Odeh, President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in Britain, Dr. Ismail Mutalqa, President of Ras Al Khaimah University of Medical and Health Sciences, faculty members of Al Ain University, and a number of specialists and researchers from various universities, medical centers and scientific institutions.

The conference aims to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing access to the latest research and development outputs in innovative digital healthcare.

The conference will feature a series of forward-looking keynote lectures in the field of digital health, specialized workshops, a presentation of outstanding research papers, and a forum dedicated to

doctoral research in this vital field, accompanied by a distinguished exhibition featuring a select group of digital healthcare service and product providers.

Dr. Mohammed Awda stated that the Academy is the sponsor and founder of the World Digital Health Conference globally, and this is the first time it has been held in the Middle East and North Africa in the United Arab Emirates. It deals with the field of digital health, which is a very promising field, and he expected it to contribute to bridging the gap in the field of providing health care for everyone around the world.

He explained that the conference includes events aimed at the Middle East, presented by a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the academy who have developed workshops on the uses of robots in orthopedic surgery and knee and hip joint replacement, noting that the academy will present its experience in cooperation with the French "Gilmer" in a workshop on the use of artificial intelligence in the process of distinguishing fractures.

He added that the conference will review the most prominent digital uses in pathology, mythology, smart hospitals, and pharmaceutical operations management, in which specialists from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi will participate, and will focus on scientific research and development.

For his part, Dr. Ghaleb Al-Rifai stressed the importance of the conference, which will address a number of topics over three days with the participation of a select group of scientists and researchers specializing in this field from within and outside the country. He encouraged students and those interested in this field to attend the conference to learn about the best practices in the field of digital health, explaining that the conference includes an accompanying exhibition with the participation of government institutions and the private sector to showcase their products and innovations in the field of digital healthcare.

GOVERNMENT-LED DIALOGUE

3. World Environmental Education Congress 2024

AAU participated in the twelfth World Environmental Education Congress, held in Abu Dhabi from 29 January to 2 February 2024 under the theme 'Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow.' The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi hosted the congress with the Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau. The forum was designed for researchers, educators, students, decision-makers, NGOs and media, and it involved government officials, international universities, foundations and environmental organisations.

The congress linked global environmental evidence with UAE policy and education priorities. Stakeholders from 83 countries included UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme, the UAE Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge and the Early Childhood Authority. Dialogue addressed education for sustainable development, the triple planetary crisis, climate change, biodiversity, waste, artificial intelligence, green skills and green employment.

The discussions, workshops and events culminated in the Abu Dhabi Roadmap: recommendations for environmental education and sustainable development aligned with the UAE Green Education Partnership Roadmap. AAU's participation therefore placed the University within a government-led, international and multisector process that converted dialogue into a documented collective output.

Public evidence: E22 | E23 | E24 | E35 | E36 | E37

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024



Al Ain university (AAU) actively engaged in the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), to emphasize its commitment to environmental issues and sustainable development. AAU's professors presented a variety of research presentations discussing environmental issues, and the university also participated in the accompanying exhibition, showcasing its community initiatives in climate, environmental sustainability, and environmental education.

The hosting of this global conference by the United Arab Emirates reflects its commitment to environmental sustainability. Al Ain University, aligned with this vision, is dedicated to applying the highest standards of environmental sustainability through education, scientific research, community activities, and university infrastructure. The university is committed to providing high-quality education,

organizing conferences, workshops, and launching initiatives that serve the youth and contribute to enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for the future.

Al Ain University takes pride in its ranking as the 5th in the United Arab Emirates in the 2024 QS World Sustainability Ranking. Additionally, the university has achieved advanced positions in Sustainable Development Goals, ranking 6th globally in Goal 4 (Quality Education), 33rd globally in Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and 88th globally in Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The university is also a member of the Universities Climate Network, a network of 33 local universities collaborating in education, research, and community service in environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

Al Ain university offers a diverse range of programs and specializations that align with its educational outcomes and sustainable development goals. Al Ain University actively seeks to strengthen its relationships and establish collaborative agreements with external institutions interested in environmental issues, including the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.

Al Ain University made a notable contribution to COP 28, with its professors delivering oral presentations and research papers addressing environmental, climate, sustainability, and artificial intelligence issues. The university's students also participated in the Climate Ambassadors program, innovation competitions, and entrepreneurship challenges.

The university prioritizes the promotion of scientific research and encourages professors to conduct innovative research that serves the environment, addresses climate challenges, and generates creative solutions.

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi to Host 12th World Environment Education Congress in 2024



Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler’s Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), Abu Dhabi will host the 12th World Environment Education Congress (WEEC) for the first time in the region. The congress has been planned in collaboration and coordination with the Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi.

WEEC, which is one of the most important events and conferences in the field of environmental education in the world, will take place from January 29 until February 2, 2024, under the theme

‘Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow.’ The hosting of the congress by EAD was officially announced during the 11th edition of WEEC in Prague, Czech Republic, in March 2022.

The congress is an important international event for people who work within the field of environmental education and sustainable development, as well as those with an interest in it. The congress will address the role and significance of education for environmental work and sustainability at all levels, in both official and informal education.

It also provides an opportunity for researchers, educators, students, decision-makers, as well as those working for NGOs or working in the media field, to learn more about a range of significant topics pertaining to the environment and sustainable development.

The congress will feature several personalities from around the world discussing environmental issues, providing a valuable opportunity for those who want to share or present their own work. Furthermore, the congress will help to increase investment in the use of information technology in the areas of open education, distance learning, and knowledge dissemination for all.

Her Excellency Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of EAD said: “We are honored to represent Abu Dhabi in hosting the 12th World Environment Education Congress, a significant event that brings together a diverse group of experts and professionals committed to disseminating environmental education ideas. We all know that the potential to instigate change in any society begins with the adoption of environmentally responsible behavior, which can only be accomplished through environmental education. We are fortunate to live in an era where governments have begun to establish policies and plans that prioritise the environment at the top of their national agenda. We are also fortunate that more members of the community are becoming conscious of the need of environmental preservation to rescue the planet.”

She added: “This conference gives an opportunity to activate and strengthen EAD's position in the field of environmental education, as well as to activate environmental and sustainable development policies. In line with the UAE Centennial 2071, the congress also contributes towards the exchange of local, regional, and global educational experiences, to promote a competitive economy based on innovation, whilst encouraging investment in the country's youth. This will equip them with skills and knowledge that respond to rapid changes and transform educational institutions in the country into global research centers.”

Ahmed Baharoon, Executive Director, Environmental Information, Science & Outreach Management: “I am extremely grateful that the Organising Committee of WEEC selected my country, the UAE for the momentous occasion of hosting WEEC 2024. We are thrilled that an event as significant as WEEC will be on our home turf, and we will work endlessly to ensure that it is a huge success and inspiration for positive action towards the conservation of the environment.”

He added: “We respect and encourage the exchange of information and dialogue between experts and those who are interested in the field of environmental education, whether they work on an individual or institutional level. This is because we know what a vital role education plays in creating awareness of significant topics that threaten our planet. It is only through education that can we mitigate the effects of negative behaviour that directly harms our precious environment, and this is the role of all of us

working in this field. Events like WEEC facilitate the development of policies and initiation of projects that can help us protect nature."

WEEC, which is held every two years, is one of the most important global events that brings together environmental educational experts on an international level. They meet to review best practices, experiences, and research on environmental education methods and outcomes under the supervision of a scientific committee representing all continents and with the help of a national committee from the host country.

Individuals, institutions, networks, and alliances involved in environmental education utilise the congress as a venue for exchanging knowledge and discourse.

Since 2003, the network has hosted ten worldwide conferences, with thousands of participants from over 100 countries, including university professors, government officials, international organisations, journalists, political representatives, foundations, and NGOs.

12th World Environmental Education Congress aligns with UAE Green Education Partnerships Roadmap



The Abu Dhabi Roadmap, a high-level plan outlining global recommendations to bolster Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), was revealed during the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC2024) at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). A culmination of four days of discussions, workshops and events, the roadmap outlines a call to action to catalyse and reinvigorate efforts in EE and ESD focused on addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis.

Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, Secretary-General at Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, said: "The Abu Dhabi Roadmap represents a pivotal moment on our path towards a more sustainable and resilient future, and affirms the UAE's dedication to enhancing EE to help further catalyse us on that journey. The WEEC2024 served as a dynamic stage to unveil this environmental plan. The mass of knowledge gained and the ideas which have inspired us over the course of this congress are fitting illustrations of the power of educational initiatives. Now, the roadmap will continue to propel us in our ongoing work to a greener future."

Developed with input from a range of stakeholders across 83 countries including UNESCO, IUCN, UNEP, UAE Ministry of Education, UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE), Department of Education and Knowledge in Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority (ECA), as well as a whole host of global environmental education experts, the roadmap was introduced by Ahmed

Baharoon, Executive Director, Environmental Information, Science and Outreach Management, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi. This unveiling occurred during a dedicated session on the fourth day of WEEC2024.

During the announcement, he emphasised that the discussions from the congress had helped inform The Abu Dhabi Roadmap. However, its inception traces back to COP28, where urgent calls for action and intensified efforts in Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development were echoed to confront the 'Code Red for humanity' represented by the Triple Planetary Crisis.

Julia Heiss, Team Leader for Education and Sustainable Development, UNESCO, said: “The 2024 World Environmental Education Congress successfully brought together stakeholders from the global Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) community globally. The event served as a platform for exchanging ideas, innovations, and the latest developments in the field. This global community of practice aims at transforming education to support a more sustainable future not only at the international level but also regionally through the network of Regional Centers of Expertise, and at the country level through the development of comprehensive Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) initiatives for the year 2030.”

Abdul-Majeid Haddad, Deputy Regional Director for West Asia, UNEP, said: “Education is one of the key vehicles to achieve a sustainable future. The Triple Planetary crisis is a clear and present danger, one that needs a coordinated and collaborative action. UNEP’s Strategy is guided by the triple planetary crisis. We are indeed encouraged to see that Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has focused on this crisis and has managed to elicit a response from environment educators from all across the world to take collaborative action towards contributing to tackling this crisis in the 12th World Environment Education Congress conducted in Abu Dhabi.”

Key recommendations include the need to urgently ramp up the pace and scale of EE and ESD, and ensure they are prominent elements in both national and global agendas, with the roadmap highlighting the essential nature of events such as WEEC to foster better integration and amplify the impact of shared goals.

The plan also encourages the harnessing of AI and smart technologies to help achieve environmental goals while underscoring the importance of placing ethics and values at the centre of EE and ESD to help foster emotional connections between society and nature. The complexities of the present day were also acknowledged, the roadmap sets out recommendations for evaluative learning as a feature for improving the efficacy of EE and ESD interventions and combining green skills with green jobs to drive sustainable development effectively.

The roadmap identifies several key actions that tackle climate change, waste management, and biodiversity loss, and can be implemented by countries and communities across the globe. In terms of Abu Dhabi's implementation, EAD will actively participate in global initiatives including the Greening Education Partnership with UNESCO, alongside expanding local programmes such as the Sustainable Schools Initiative. The efforts will involve promoting circularity and implementing measures such as the ban on single-use plastics, complemented by awareness campaigns to drive behavioural change.

To combat biodiversity loss, Abu Dhabi is collaborating with UNEP and partners such as the Rewilding Academy in the Netherlands and Plant for Planet in Germany to to respond to Challenge 6.3 – Education

of the UNEP Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Action Plan. To further strengthen these efforts, plans are underway to establish a Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development in Abu Dhabi. Additionally, close collaboration with partners like IUCN underscores Abu Dhabi's dedication to developing nature-based learning recommendations.

During his speech about Abu Dhabi's contribution to the global roadmap, Ahmed Baharoon said: "The roadmap identifies several key actions that tackle climate change, waste management, and biodiversity loss, and can be implemented by countries and communities across the globe. In terms of Abu Dhabi's implementation, EAD will actively participate in global initiatives like the Greening Education Partnership with UNESCO, alongside expanding local programmes such as the Sustainable Schools Initiative to cover all schools. The efforts will involve promoting circularity and implementing measures like the recent ban on single-use plastics, complemented by awareness campaigns to drive behavioural change.

"To combat biodiversity loss, Abu Dhabi is collaborating with UNEP and partners such as the Rewilding Academy in the Netherlands and Plant for Planet in Germany to to respond to Challenge 6.3 – Education of the UNEP Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Action Plan. To further strengthen these efforts, plans are underway to establish a Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development in Abu Dhabi. Additionally, close collaboration with partners like IUCN underscores Abu Dhabi's dedication to developing nature-based learning recommendations."

During his speech, Ahmed Baharoon invited the world to join the Abu Dhabi Roadmap and help implement its recommendations, drawn from a wealth of experience and expertise. Ahmed Baharoon said: "We seek partners, collaborations, and networks to help connect people and create a better tomorrow."

Day four of the congress marked the end of the event's engaging conversation and knowledge sharing, which set the foundation for an exploration of Abu Dhabi's ecological and educational sites in a series of field trips on day five, seamlessly integrating theory into hands-on experiences.

Ahead of the roadmap announcement, the Four Thematic Chairs of WEEC2024; Antonella Bachiorri, Professor of Didactics of Biology and Environmental Education at the University of Parma, Italy; Richard Perry, Chair of the Socio-Scientific Committee; David Zandvliet, Professor at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, and Gayatri Raghwa, Senior Environment Education Consultant at UNEP, India, summarised the outcome of the event. They addressed the challenges identified from discussions across the four days, highlighting the dimensions that need to be considered, the collective goals of environmental education, and the means to achieve them.

In anticipation of future environmental education endeavours, an exciting announcement was made regarding the 13th World Environmental Education Congress. The upcoming congress is set to take place in Perth, Australia, promising further engagement and advancements in the field of environmental education.

An MOU between Al Ain University and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi



Al Ain University (AAU) and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at boosting collaboration in areas of shared interest in research and development. The signing of the agreement was overseen by Her Excellency Dr. Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, the Secretary General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, and Prof. Ghaleb Al Rifai, AAU President.

The MoU aims to promote collaboration in multiple environmental disciplines, benefiting both parties involved. It also mandates that faculty members possess the expertise, unique research resources, and innovative ideas to bridge any scientific gaps, as well as support the efforts of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and Al Ain University to safeguard the environment and preserve biological diversity. This will enhance the reputation and function of both institutions as centers of scientific excellence, ultimately aiding Abu Dhabi in achieving its sustainability and environmental objectives.

Prof. Ghaleb Al-Refai, President of the University, said this memorandum will strengthen collaboration in the areas of research, service, and development while highlighting the interdependence of environmental, social, and economic systems in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development. The University is committed to utilizing its academic programs and scientific research to serve all sectors, particularly the environmental sector. Al Ain University is dedicated to preserving the environmental balance and climate and achieving the objectives of sustainable development. The university is making every effort to provide its expertise and resources to achieve these goals.

Ahmed Baharoon, the Executive Director of the Environmental Information, Science and Awareness Management Sector at the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, stated that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the agency and Al Ain University demonstrates their shared dedication to actively promoting sustainable development through scientific research activities that focus on utilizing modern technologies. He added that this collaboration is one of the essential elements for meeting the developmental needs in environmental conservation and resource management.

By signing the MoUs, the universities' significant research capabilities will be utilized to meet the emirate's environmental research requirements, while also providing the universities with an abundance of meaningful research questions. The strategic priorities of EAD, such as climate change, habitat conservation, ground and marine water, fisheries, and air quality, present exciting research opportunities. Additionally, policy formulation and balancing social, economic, and environmental

factors offer valuable areas for research. The results of the collaborative research will be disseminated through various mediums, such as scientific literature, reports, and journals.

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi partners with 8 UAE Universities to collaborate on scientific research



To enhance and explore bilateral research opportunities, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has signed eight memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with major universities in the UAE.

Partnering universities include Abu Dhabi University, Al Ain University, American University of Sharjah, Khalifa University, New York University Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, UAE University, and Zayed University, with EAD having future plans of partnering with other research organisations going forward.

The agreements serve as frameworks for collaboration in the field of scientific research for the purpose of closing knowledge gaps. All entities recognise the mutual benefits of collaboration and have set out basic terms and conditions to allow the fast-track development of research projects.

The agreements will allow partner universities to bring their faculty member's expertise, specialist research resources and innovations to help bridge scientific knowledge gaps and support EAD's operations. This will reinforce EAD's position as an innovative and science-driven organisation and will be a catalyst for achieving Abu Dhabi's environment and sustainability targets.

Ahmed Baharoon, Executive Director of Environment Information, Science Outreach Management Sector at EAD, said: "The visionary leadership of Abu Dhabi has always placed great importance on, and investment in, education and scientific research. In the last few decades, the emirate's research capacity and capabilities have developed tremendously, therefore institutional-level agreements between these eight universities and EAD will provide researchers with a rich seam of collaboration opportunities. Universities are home to faculty members who are deep subject matter experts and operate highly specialist research labs and equipment.

"Since its establishment, EAD has been a science-driven Agency. It is essential that the creation of laws, policies, projects and strategic advice by EAD, as well as education programmes and reports, are based on robust, defensible science. The Agency therefore places strategic importance on strengthening environmental research and development that signing these eight memoranda of understanding will provide.

“We also maintain an environmental research needs register that will provide these universities with a rich list of potential research projects. We also provide access to decades of environmental monitoring data, reports, and research publications, as well as in-depth expertise.”

The breadth of expertise in the external research community will allow EAD, in collaboration with its partners, to address environmental challenges in a holistic manner and consider the complex interactions between soils, water, air, wildlife, social and economic systems.

The MoUs will allow the considerable research capabilities of the individual universities to support the environmental research needs of the emirate while providing the universities a rich source of substantive research questions.

There are exciting research opportunities across all of EAD’s main strategic priorities, including: climate change, habitat conservation, ground and marine water, fisheries, and air quality. Policy formulation and the optimisation of social, economic, and environmental imperatives also provide rich research areas. The outcomes of collaborative research will be published in scientific literature, reports and journals, and more.

Abu Dhabi Environment Agency announces official launch of ADERN

ABU DHABI, 26th June, 2023 (WAM) -- The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has announced the official launch of ADERN (Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network), a community of research scientists, research institutions and allied innovators, to convene research and development experts around the scientific knowledge gaps facing stakeholders to continuously enhance the environment of the emirate.

With a focus on addressing environmental challenges, ADERN will play a vital role in advancing the understanding and implementation of sustainability in Abu Dhabi.

Recognising the urgency of the climate agenda and the inseparable connection between climate, biodiversity loss and pollution, ADERN will address the climate science-policy agenda by leveraging research resources toward inter-disciplinary multi-sectoral collaboration.

To support the research efforts of ADERN, EAD has developed the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Needs Register, an extensive list of over 200 research requirements. An Environmental Knowledge Graph System - a world-first innovation developed to analyse and communicate cause-effect relationships between humans and the environment and the impact of a changed environment on human well-being.

EAD’s enviroportal contains data from its 25 years of research. An Environmental Research Directory will catalogue the hundreds of environmental researchers and allied innovators, research facilities, research projects and events. Collectively these tools will help stakeholders make science-based decisions that address the environmental challenges faced by the Emirate.

Eight universities have joined ADERN as founding institutional members. These include Abu Dhabi University, Al Ain University, American University of Sharjah, Khalifa University, NYU Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates University and Zayed University.

Ahmed Baharoon, Executive Director of Environment Information, Science Outreach Management Sector at EAD, said, “We are facing unprecedented challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We cannot ignore these issues, and time is of the essence. That is why today, we launch the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network, a ground-breaking initiative to revolutionise how we approach science-based problem-solving. Our mantra is simple yet powerful: ‘Convene, Converge, Collaborate.’”

“We are bridging the gap between problems and solutions by harnessing the power of collective action. Through aligning research efforts with stakeholder needs and cultivating collaboration, we aim to create a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to environmental research and problem-solving, ensuring impactful outcomes.”

Over the past decade, Abu Dhabi has become a notable epicentre for innovation and scientific progression. The research capacity of the UAE has shown a significant 16-fold increase since 2000, highlighting its academic prowess. This exponential growth, backed by the expansion of existing universities and the establishment of new ones, underscores the Emirate's steadfast commitment to a knowledge-driven economy and the pursuit of scientific breakthroughs.

As the UAE prepares to host COP28 later this year, the launch of ADERN is a testament to Abu Dhabi Emirate’s determination to tackle climate change head-on and aligns with the ‘Year of Sustainability’.

Resource brought to the dialogue	Contributing sectors	Collective value
Policy mandates and national roadmaps	UAE ministries, EAD, education authorities	Connect environmental education to public policy and national implementation
International standards and comparative expertise	UNESCO, UNEP, IUCN and global participants	Place UAE action within international evidence and practice
Research and teaching capability	AAU and participating universities	Translate sustainability knowledge into curricula, projects and community learning
Community and practitioner insight	NGOs, foundations, educators, students and media	Broaden participation and improve the relevance and reach of solutions
Shared output	All participating sectors	Abu Dhabi Roadmap recommendations for environmental education and sustainable development

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY DIALOGUE

4. Annual Student Conference: sustainability after COP28

AAU hosted the Annual Student Conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs from 19 to 21 February 2024 under the theme 'Sustainability of University Life in Light of COP28.' More than 54 student researchers from eight Arab countries—the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq—presented research. Participation was free, submissions were peer reviewed and the programme supported knowledge exchange among universities.

The conference operated through the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs of the Association of Arab Universities, whose headquarters are hosted by AAU. Its steering structure involved universities from across the Arab region. The opening brought together cultural and educational leadership, the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, university presidents, academic leaders, faculty and students.

Research and discussion connected sustainable development with artificial intelligence and the future of work, digital media, health and wellbeing, volunteering, dialogue culture and national identity. The conference therefore strengthened relationships between colleges and universities while enabling a new generation of researchers to exchange evidence on interconnected SDG priorities.

Public evidence: E17 | E18



Evidence exhibit 2. Academic leaders, university representatives and student researchers at the 2024 Annual Student Conference on sustainable university life after COP28. Sources E17-E18.

The annual student conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Annual Student Conference for the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs is organized by Al Ain University, which serves as the headquarters for the Society of Student Affairs Deanship's Management in Arab universities under the Arab Universities Union. All submitted research papers will undergo peer review by experts in various fields. The conference seeks to attract researchers from students, faculty members and administrative staff in Arab universities. Among its most important goals are:

- Encouraging students to participate in scientific research to develop their skills and promote their capabilities.
- Providing opportunities for the exchange of experiences among students in Arab universities.
- Creating an environment for collaborative work in the field of scientific research.
- Exploring the potentials and talents of young learners in various fields and disciplines.

RESEARCH EXCHANGE

5. Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium

AAU organised the second Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium in 2024, demonstrating that inter-university research dialogue is programmed rather than isolated. More than 100 postgraduate participants from ten countries contributed, and the programme considered more than 120 research papers through lectures, discussion and research competition formats.

The symposium connected AAU with a broad academic and health-sciences network that included Dubai Medical College for Girls, United Arab Emirates University, Abu Dhabi University, Jordan University of Science and Technology, University of Sharjah, Gulf Medical University, Qatar University, Beirut Arab University, Hashemite University, Ajman University, Khalifa University, Egypt International University and Zarqa University. Themes included clinical and health sciences, pharmacy, artificial intelligence in healthcare, medical engineering, nutrition and postgraduate research.

The forum enabled researchers and postgraduate learners to test ideas across institutional and disciplinary boundaries, build research relationships and exchange methods relevant to SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 9 and SDG 17. Independent national media coverage confirms the event's scale and multi-university character.

Public evidence: E19 | E20

AAU organizes the 2nd AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium



The College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University organized the second AAU Health and Biomedical postgraduate Symposium at Abu Dhabi Campus. More than 100 postgraduate students from 10 Arab and foreign countries participated, presenting over 120 research papers.

The symposium included diverse lectures, group discussions, scientific and social activities, and cultural games. It provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to enhance their scientific knowledge, develop skills, explore various career opportunities, interact with experts, and expand their professional network through the postgraduate student research competition. The competition covers several fields, including health and medical sciences, pharmacy and drug discovery, artificial intelligence in health sciences, medical engineering, nutrition and food sciences, pharmacy practice, and clinical sciences. The

student research competition consists of three categories: oral presentations, poster presentations, and a three-minute thesis competition.

Al Ain University students won 8 awards in various research fields. Additionally, Dubai Medical College for Girls received 6 awards, the United Arab Emirates University received 5 awards, and 4 awards each went to the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Abu Dhabi University. The University of Sharjah secured 3 awards, while the Gulf Medical University and Qatar University each received 2 awards. The Arab University of Beirut, Hashemite University in Jordan, Ajman University, Khalifa University, Egypt International University, and Al-Zarqa University in Jordan each received one award.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, the AAU President, emphasized that the university places great importance on scientific research and encourages students, especially postgraduate students, to produce scientific research and work on publishing it in reputable scientific journals. He highlighted that scientific research enhances students' skills for their future careers. He also affirmed that Al Ain University has been keen on establishing several research centers and scientific laboratories to support research activities.

In turn, Prof. Mohammed Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University, highlighted the role played by the university's administration in supporting students through organizing conferences and workshops. These initiatives contribute to enhancing students' skills and provide them with opportunities to build relationships with individuals who share common interests in their fields of work.

Recurring environmental dialogue

AAU's seventh Annual Environmental Day in 2024 provides a second recurring institutional forum. The event series integrates sustainability research, education and public awareness and continued in 2025 with climate finance and environmental sustainability and in 2026 with zero waste, circular economy and innovation. Its numbered annual format documents continuity across changing environmental priorities.

Public evidence: E21 | E48 | E56

AAU organizes the 7th Annual Environmental Day 2024



The College of Business at Al Ain University recently held its Seventh Annual Environmental Day under the theme "Climate Change and its Impact on Economic Development in the 21st Century". The event was organized jointly by Dr. Mosab I. Tabash, Dr. Shorouq Eletter, and Dr. Tahira Yasmin. The University's president, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, presided over the event, which was attended by deans,

faculty from other colleges, staff, and students. The event's primary objective was to raise awareness about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG4, SDG7, and SDG13. Different views from experts, academicians, students, and researchers enriched the day. The event began with a welcome speech by Dr. Zafar Husain, Dean of the College of Business. He discussed the College's role in promoting sustainability, ethics, and corporate social responsibility in Business.

During the Environmental Day event at Al Ain University, the speakers shared their insights about environmental sustainability and climate change. Aisha Al Mazroui, Project Manager of the Sustainable Campus Initiative from the Environmental Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD), talked about the different initiatives EAD took and encouraged students to participate in their activities to help create a clean and green environment. Dr. Tahira Yasmin from Al Ain University discussed the "Degrowth Strategy" for Combating Climate Change Challenges globally and in the UAE, highlighting the cost of climate change to economic development.

For the first time on Environmental Day, a student-to-student panel discussion took place where students discussed the relationship between climate change and economic development. They concluded that climate change poses multifaceted challenges to economic growth, such as disrupting agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and price volatility.

All University colleges participated in the event by setting up booths reflecting their commitment to protecting the environment. Additionally, a plantation drive for Ghaf trees was conducted on the university premises, sponsored by Barari Natural Resources, with the participation of the AAU President, faculty members, and students.

Al Ain University is part of the Sustainable Campus initiative supervised by the Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency and has ranked high in UI Green Metric World University Ranking, Sustainability Ranking, and Impact Ranking. The University is increasingly focusing on addressing urgent environmental issues.

Eighth Annual Environmental Day: Promoting Awareness of Climate Finance and Environmental Sustainability



The College of Business at Al Ain University recently hosted the Eighth Annual Environmental Day, centered around the theme "Climate Finance and Environmental Sustainability: Insights from SDG13." The event was organized by Dr. Mosab I. Tabash, Dr. Shorouq Eletter, and Dr. Tahira Yasmin, with the

primary goal of raising awareness about climate change and environmental sustainability, particularly emphasizing the United Nations' SDG13.

The event was inaugurated by the University's President, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, who was joined by the Deans, faculty members, staff, and students. He toured the environmental booths set up by the university's colleges, which showcased various initiatives aimed at protecting the environment. Following the inauguration, Dr. Zafar Hussain, Dean of the College of Business, delivered a welcoming speech, emphasizing the critical importance of safeguarding the environment to prevent devastating environmental disasters.

Notable speakers from both government and industry shared their valuable insights on climate change and sustainability. Ms. Aisha Al Mazroui, Project Manager of the Sustainable Campus Initiative from the Environmental Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), discussed various EAD initiatives, including the Sustainable Campus project. Dr. Sivapalan Kathiravale, Head of Research & Development at Tadweer Group, presented information on recycling projects in the UAE and their role in promoting sustainability. Mr. Ghulam Ashraf, Director of Operations at Rise Biofuels, delivered an engaging presentation on how his company uses biofuels to reduce carbon emissions and emphasized the need for biofuels as a sustainable alternative.

During the event, two groups of students participated in an environmental competition, managed by Praveen Dhas, a College of Business student. The winning team was awarded prizes. Additionally, a plantation drive was held on the university campus, sponsored by Barari Natural Resources, with active participation from the Dean, faculty, and students.

Al Ain University is proud to be part of the Sustainable Campus initiative, overseen by the Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency. The university has earned high rankings in the UI Green Metric World University Ranking, Sustainability Ranking, and Impact Ranking, reflecting its growing commitment to addressing pressing environmental challenges.

GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

6. Government dialogue, training and professional standards

AAU complements major conferences with focused government dialogue and training. In 2024, an AAU delegation visited the UAE Ministry of Economy to strengthen collaboration in research, education and knowledge exchange. This relationship subsequently developed into AAU's participation in the Ministry's Knowledge and Innovation Hub, a platform for academic collaboration in economic policy, research, legislation and innovation.

AAU also cooperated with Al Ain Municipality on an awareness workshop for engineering students concerning the engineer-registration system. The workshop connected public-sector professional standards with university learning and employability, allowing future engineers to understand regulatory processes and labour-market expectations directly from the competent authority.

Public-sector partner	Dialogue or training mechanism	Shared SDG purpose
UAE Ministry of Economy	Institutional visit, research and education collaboration; later Knowledge and Innovation Hub	Evidence-informed economic policy, innovation, knowledge economy and sustainable growth
Al Ain Municipality	Engineer-registration awareness workshop	Professional standards, job readiness, quality infrastructure and decent work
Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi	Research MoU, ADERN network, WEEC dialogue and environmental evidence	Environmental policy, research, education, climate action and adaptive management
Education and accreditation authorities	Conference participation, standards and academic dialogue	Quality education, responsible innovation and system-wide learning

Public evidence: E11 | E16 | E23 | E24 | E25 | E26 | E27 | E35 | E36 | E37 | E52

The Global Digital Health Conference kicks off in Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi, September 24 (WAM) - The "Global Digital Health - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" conference kicked off today at Al Ain University in Abu Dhabi and will continue until September 26. It is organized in cooperation with the Global Academy for Digital Health in the United

Kingdom, and with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The opening was attended by Dr. Amjad Qandil, representing the Commission for Academic Accreditation at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Nour El-Din Atatrah, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Al Ain University, Dr. Ghaleb Al-Rifai, President of Al Ain University, Dr. Mohammed Odeh, President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in Britain, Dr. Ismail Mutalqa, President of Ras Al Khaimah University of Medical and Health Sciences, faculty members of Al Ain University, and a number of specialists and researchers from various universities, medical centers and scientific institutions.

The conference aims to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing access to the latest research and development outputs in innovative digital healthcare.

The conference will feature a series of forward-looking keynote lectures in the field of digital health, specialized workshops, a presentation of outstanding research papers, and a forum dedicated to doctoral research in this vital field, accompanied by a distinguished exhibition featuring a select group of digital healthcare service and product providers.

Dr. Mohammed Awda stated that the Academy is the sponsor and founder of the World Digital Health Conference globally, and this is the first time it has been held in the Middle East and North Africa in the United Arab Emirates. It deals with the field of digital health, which is a very promising field, and he expected it to contribute to bridging the gap in the field of providing health care for everyone around the world.

He explained that the conference includes events aimed at the Middle East, presented by a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the academy who have developed workshops on the uses of robots in orthopedic surgery and knee and hip joint replacement, noting that the academy will present its experience in cooperation with the French "Gilmer" in a workshop on the use of artificial intelligence in the process of distinguishing fractures.

He added that the conference will review the most prominent digital uses in pathology, mythology, smart hospitals, and pharmaceutical operations management, in which specialists from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi will participate, and will focus on scientific research and development.

For his part, Dr. Ghaleb Al-Rifai stressed the importance of the conference, which will address a number of topics over three days with the participation of a select group of scientists and researchers specializing in this field from within and outside the country. He encouraged students and those interested in this field to attend the conference to learn about the best practices in the field of digital health, explaining that the conference includes an accompanying exhibition with the participation of government institutions and the private sector to showcase their products and innovations in the field of digital healthcare.

Al Ain University Organizes the Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment

Posted on:Sep 27, 2024



Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi to Host 12th World Environment Education Congress in 2024

For the first time in the region.

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12th World Environmental Education Congress aligns with UAE Green Education Partnerships Roadmap



Al Ain University Delegation Visits Ministry of Economy to Strengthen Collaboration

Posted on:Dec 26, 2024



An Awareness Workshop on the Engineer Registration System in cooperation with Al Ain Municipality

Posted on:Nov 06, 2024



An MOU between Al Ain University and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

Posted on:Mar 13, 2023



Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi partners with 8 UAE Universities to collaborate on scientific research



Abu Dhabi Environment Agency announces official launch of ADERN

ABU DHABI, 26th June, 2023 (WAM) -- The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has announced the official launch of ADERN (Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network), a community of research scientists, research institutions and allied innovators, to convene research and development experts around the scientific knowledge gaps facing stakeholders to continuously enhance the environment of the emirate.

With a focus on addressing environmental challenges, ADERN will play a vital role in advancing the understanding and implementation of sustainability in Abu Dhabi.

Recognising the urgency of the climate agenda and the inseparable connection between climate, biodiversity loss and pollution, ADERN will address the climate science-policy agenda by leveraging research resources toward inter-disciplinary multi-sectoral collaboration.

To support the research efforts of ADERN, EAD has developed the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Needs Register, an extensive list of over 200 research requirements. An Environmental Knowledge Graph System - a world-first innovation developed to analyse and communicate cause-effect relationships between humans and the environment and the impact of a changed environment on human well-being.

EAD's enviroportal contains data from its 25 years of research. An Environmental Research Directory will catalogue the hundreds of environmental researchers and allied innovators, research facilities, research projects and events. Collectively these tools will help stakeholders make science-based decisions that address the environmental challenges faced by the Emirate.

Eight universities have joined ADERN as founding institutional members. These include Abu Dhabi University, Al Ain University, American University of Sharjah, Khalifa University, NYU Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates University and Zayed University.

Ahmed Baharoon, Executive Director of Environment Information, Science Outreach Management Sector at EAD, said, "We are facing unprecedented challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We cannot ignore these issues, and time is of the essence. That is why today, we launch the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network, a ground-breaking initiative to revolutionise how we approach science-based problem-solving. Our mantra is simple yet powerful: 'Convene, Converge, Collaborate.'"

"We are bridging the gap between problems and solutions by harnessing the power of collective action. Through aligning research efforts with stakeholder needs and cultivating collaboration, we aim to create a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to environmental research and problem-solving, ensuring impactful outcomes."

Over the past decade, Abu Dhabi has become a notable epicentre for innovation and scientific progression. The research capacity of the UAE has shown a significant 16-fold increase since 2000, highlighting its academic prowess. This exponential growth, backed by the expansion of existing universities and the establishment of new ones, underscores the Emirate's steadfast commitment to a knowledge-driven economy and the pursuit of scientific breakthroughs.

As the UAE prepares to host COP28 later this year, the launch of ADERN is a testament to Abu Dhabi Emirate's determination to tackle climate change head-on and aligns with the 'Year of Sustainability'.

Ministry of Economy & Tourism launches ‘Knowledge and Innovation Hub’ to strengthen collaboration with UAE’s academic sector in economic policy, research, and studies



22 May 2025

Ministry of Economy & Tourism launches ‘Knowledge and Innovation Hub’ to strengthen collaboration with UAE’s academic sector in economic policy, research, and studies

MoUs signed with 18 universities and research institutions from across the country

CIVIL SOCIETY AND NGOS

7. Training and dialogue with nonprofit partners

AAU works with nonprofit and public-interest organisations to ensure that SDG dialogue reaches learners, families and communities. These collaborations combine the University's teaching and research capacity with the partners' delivery networks, community knowledge and specialist programmes.

Partner	2024 or standing collaboration	Training, dialogue and SDG value
Sandooq Al Watan	AAU collaboration to empower youth; National Identity Clubs and student programmes	Dialogue, innovation, national identity, leadership, volunteering and youth contribution to sustainable development
General Women's Union	'My Farming, My Self-Sufficiency' workshop with AAU	Practical knowledge, women's capability, food awareness, self-reliance and community sustainability
INJAZ UAE	'Be Ready for the Job Market' workshop for more than 80 students	CV, interview, LinkedIn and workplace skills; dialogue with youth on future employment
Educators Without Borders International	Standing MoU for volunteer expertise, education and research	Teacher and administrator training, lectures, workshops, research, publication and support for underserved communities

Public evidence: E28 | E29 | E30 | E31 | E32 | E33 | E34



Nahyan bin Mubarak announces launch of National Identity Clubs in UAE's schools, universities



ABU DHABI, 24th September, 2024 (WAM) -- Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sandooq Al Watan, announced the establishment of National Identity Clubs in schools, colleges and universities in the country, which aligns with Sandooq Al Watan's pursuit of fostering a "strong and sustainable national identity", grounded in empowerment, productivity and responsibility.

Sheikh Nahyan said that this reflects a sincere response to the vision of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan who emphasises that pride in national identity is pride in the unique characteristics of the society, as well as a deep understanding of its aspirations, its ambitions, principles, values, and ways of life.

He added, "As His Highness the President of the UAE reminds us, pride in the national identity reaffirms our well-established characteristics: our good morals, behaviour, and the Emirati rich history, enduring heritage, dynamic vitality, and continuous achievements".

This came during the closing ceremony of the summer programmes of Sandooq Al Watan and the launch of National Identity Clubs.

The ceremony included a speech by Sheikh Nahyan honouring the distinguished students and teachers, and distributing medals of excellence to schools, universities and colleges that participated in the programmes of Sandooq Al Watan.

The ceremony included a presentation on the objectives and operations of National Identity Clubs in schools and universities, along with discussion panels reviewing their annual activities, organisational structure, and communication methods.

Over 500 outstanding school and university students attended, along with teachers, university professors, and Yasser Al Gergawi, Director General of Sandooq Al Watan.

At the start of his speech, Sheikh Nahyan welcomed students and representatives from educational institutions involved in Sandooq Al Watan's national identity programmes, announcing the next phase aimed at further strengthening national identity, building on the successful initiatives from last summer.

He also announced that the new phase will witness the establishment of national identity clubs in every school, college and university to showcase the students' abilities and enthusiasm throughout the school year, demonstrating their commitment to serving their country, aligning with its goals and objectives, showing loyalty to its leaders and symbols, and celebrating its highest human values.

He also expressed gratitude and respect to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, offering him a pledge and a promise to always meet his expectations with sincerity and love for the country. "We promise to dedicate all our efforts and energy to empowering students in schools, colleges and universities, so that they may always take pride in its history, heritage and culture its esteemed position among the nations of the world, and its immense capability to contribute actively and effectively to global development."

He announced that the number of participants in the summer programmes of Sandooq Al-Watan this year has reached approximately twenty-four thousand students, in schools, colleges and universities. "This number is expected to grow each year, eventually encompassing the majority of male and female students, in all educational institutions across the country."

He added, "Today, as we announce the establishment of National Identity Clubs, we affirm that we at Sandooq Al Watan see in these clubs a remarkable embodiment of a core principle in the journey of our beloved country – our commitment to working collectively with a spirit of teamwork to achieve noble goals for both the country and its citizen, alike".

Sheikh Nayan further stated, "These clubs will embody the virtues of teamwork in various aspects, including establishing effective channels of communication and understanding, exchanging opinions and ideas, and committing to clear and specific goals, or building a strong partnership with the progress of the school, college, university, or society at large."

Additionally, the clubs will set high expectations for performance, with a focus on enriching the student's lives by developing their abilities for critical thinking, initiative and decision-making. "All of this will take place within a framework for shared understanding, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, adherence to positive behaviour standards, and active participation in activities and initiatives," he noted.

Sheikh Nahyan explained that the National Identity Clubs, which uphold these characteristics and qualities for productive teamwork, are dedicated to achieving the ultimate goal: providing students with opportunities to serve themselves, their community, and the world. "Through this, they aim to develop students' leadership skills, enabling them to embody values of generosity, giving, integrity, honesty, responsibility, courage, loyalty, tolerance and human fraternity, self-confidence, love for their country, and full trust in its prosperous future."

He affirmed that these values define the UAE's progress under the wise leadership of its esteemed leaders and the continuous achievements of its loyal and generous people.

He reiterated that National Identity Clubs will promote initiatives benefiting society, such as enhancing educational environments, preserving nature, holding events, and quality-of-life programmes like anti-obesity and tech education. “Upcoming efforts include volunteering in schools and healthcare facilities nationwide.”

He hoped the National Identity Clubs would nurture the Arabic language, promote culture and arts, foster values of knowledge, and serve as a platform for youth enthusiasm in volunteering, public service, and research on UAE national identity.

He announced that Sandooq Al Watan, in collaboration with community institutions, will launch a grants and awards programme to honour excellence and support National Identity Clubs.

A Workshop entitled “My Farming, My Self-Sufficiency” Workshop in Collaboration with the General Women’s Union



The Deanship of Student Affairs at Al Ain University (Abu Dhabi campus) organized a workshop titled “My Farming, My Self-Sufficiency” in collaboration with the General Women’s Union. The workshop was presented by Engineer Amjad Omar Al-Akhal, Director of Emirates Hydroponic Farms for Vegetables, and covered several key topics, including the historical evolution of agriculture, an introduction to hydroponic farming, the benefits of applying such agricultural practices, and the main types of plants suitable for hydroponic systems. The workshop also featured a practical component where students learned about different agricultural media, types of seeds suitable for hydroponic farming, and how to plant in alternative media to soil. These activities aim to enhance environmental awareness among students and encourage them to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. By learning about hydroponic farming techniques, students can apply this knowledge in their daily lives and contribute to conserving natural resources. Additionally, the workshop helps students develop practical skills in agriculture and environmental conservation.

These relationships demonstrate dialogue through action. University experts and students share knowledge and research; nonprofit partners identify community needs and provide access; workshops create direct interaction; and programme experience feeds back into future training, outreach and institutional partnerships. This makes civil society an active contributor rather than an audience only.

RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY

8. Cross-sector research and implementation partnerships

Cross-sector dialogue is sustained by research and implementation agreements. AAU's memorandum with the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi places University expertise within a government-led research system designed to close knowledge gaps and provide robust evidence for environmental decisions. Through the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network, universities, government and other research actors share priorities, facilities, projects, data and expertise.

In 2024, AAU and Siemens Energy established cooperation in research, innovation and capability development in the energy sector. AAU also strengthened relationships with leading engineering and technology companies and concluded a professional partnership with the Institute of Management Accountants. These relationships create channels for industry specialists to inform curricula and training, researchers to pursue applied questions, and students to engage with technologies and professional practice.

Collaboration	Resources pooled	Resulting dialogue
EAD / ADERN	Government priorities and data; university researchers, laboratories and publications	Science-to-policy exchange on climate, environment, biodiversity and resource management
Siemens Energy	Energy expertise, research capability, innovation and training	Applied discussion of sustainable energy, technology and future skills
Engineering and technology companies	Industry problems, technical experts, placements and practical learning	Research, professional preparation and implementation-oriented exchange
Institute of Management Accountants	Professional standards, academic expertise and workforce development	Accounting, governance, professional education and labour-market dialogue

Public evidence: E10 | E35 | E36 | E37 | E38 | E39 | E40

Al Ain University and Siemens Energy collaborate to Foster Research and Innovation in the Energy Sector



Al Ain University (AAU) and Siemens Energy LLC have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a collaborative partnership to advance innovation, knowledge exchange, and joint research in the energy sector. The MoU was signed by Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President- Al Ain University), and Dr. Fahad Al Yafei (Chief Technology Officer, Technology and

Innovation Center Abu Dhabi, Siemens Energy.). The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Board of Trustees Deputy Chairman- Al Ain University), Mr. Khalid Bin Hadi (UAE Managing Director- Siemens Energy), and staff members from both organizations.

The partnership between Al Ain University and Siemens Energy focuses on collaborative research and pilot projects, with AAU students addressing real-world challenges and providing consulting solutions. At the same time, Siemens Energy experts contribute their knowledge to enhance the academic environment. This collaboration also aims to create new job opportunities for AAU graduates and develop a skilled talent pipeline for Siemens Energy. It involves sharing resources, pursuing joint funding for energy transition research, and working on projects in de-carbonization, energy storage, and blockchain applications.

"This collaboration marks a major advance in aligning academia with industry needs. By partnering with Siemens Energy, we offer our students exceptional opportunities to tackle real-world challenges, drive innovation, and prepare for leadership roles in the energy sector. Together, we are advancing research and developing sustainable solutions for a better future." said Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University.

"Partnership is key to accelerating de-carbonization. Enabling knowledge transfer and fostering innovation in the energy sector is crucial to empowering future generations in the fight against climate change. We're proud to launch this collaboration with Al Ain University and work with academia to develop and commercialize new technologies that will make a meaningful contribution to reaching net zero," said Dr. Fahad Al Yafei, Chief Technology Officer, Technology and Innovation Center Abu Dhabi, Siemens Energy.

Al Ain University Strengthens Partnerships with Leading Engineering and Technology Companies



In line with its strategy to form partnerships with the industrial sector to support the educational journey, Al Ain University in its Abu Dhabi campus has signed cooperation agreements with major companies in the fields of engineering and technology, namely Federal Electronics and MVP, a software and gaming applications company.

On behalf of Al Ain University, the agreements were signed by Dr. Qutaiba Thibyan, Dean of the College of Engineering. Federal Electronics was represented by Engineer Mansour Adel, General Manager of Human Resources and Business Development, and MVP was represented by Engineer Ali Al Hammadi, the company's CEO.

The Memoranda of Understanding were signed in the presence of Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of the University, and the College of Engineering administration during the Global Digital Health Conference – Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment 2024, which took place at the university from September 24-26, 2024. These agreements aim to provide practical training opportunities for engineering students across various disciplines, as well as to coordinate joint workshops on entrepreneurship within all engineering fields, in line with labor market demands. The agreements also seek to enhance students' knowledge and skills in engineering, technology, and environmental sustainability, enabling them to apply their academic studies in real-world work environments through lectures and specialized workshops.

Pioneering Event and MoU with the Institute of Management Accountants



Al Ain University hosted the flagship event "Connect with the Institute of Management Accountants 2024," organized by the College of Business. The event brought together finance and management accounting professionals, offering opportunities to connect with industry leaders, emerging talents, and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

The event featured a workshop on "Igniting Innovations Through Connections," presenting strategic and valuable insights into the future of the profession, delivered by Mike DePrisco, President and CEO of the Institute of Management Accountants. Attendees had the chance to network with peers, learn from experts, and gain insights into the latest trends and technologies shaping the future of industries.

One of the event's highlights was signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Al Ain University and the Institute of Management Accountants. The MOU was signed by Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of Al Ain University (Abu Dhabi Campus), and Mike DePrisco, President and CEO of the Institute of Management Accountants. This collaboration represents a significant step toward enhancing cooperation in finance, management accounting, and other areas that benefit both parties.

The MoU aims to strengthen ties between the university and the institute by developing training programs, exchanging practical experiences and skills, collaborating in scientific research, and organizing

joint workshops and lectures, all of which contribute to enhancing the quality of education and research at the university.

The event also celebrated the achievements of professionals who recently earned their CMA, CSCA, and FMAA certifications, some of the most prestigious qualifications in the field of management accounting. These certifications hold significant value for students and business enthusiasts, fostering a community of excellence and leadership.

Prof. Amer Qasem remarked, "Hosting this important event at Al Ain University represents a distinctive step towards solidifying the university's role as a hub for professional and academic engagement." He added, "This event not only provides a platform for finance and management accounting professionals but also enhances opportunities for our students and faculty members to learn from experts and interact with industry leaders."

Qasem further highlighted that the signing of the MoU with the Institute of Management Accountants reflects Al Ain University's commitment to building strategic partnerships that serve the university’s aspirations and the needs of the business community. He expressed pride in celebrating the achievements of professionals who have earned CMA, CSCA, and FMAA certifications, which signify leadership and excellence in the field.

The President and CEO of the Institute of Management Accountants expressed his pride in this collaboration with Al Ain University, stating that the partnership underscores both parties’ commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in finance and management accounting while preparing a new generation of distinguished professionals to lead the future.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIPS

9. Colleges and universities as dialogue partners

AAU's conference and workshop activity is reinforced by formal university relationships. In 2024, the University signed academic and research agreements with institutions in the UAE and internationally, including Al-Noor University, Murdoch University, Management and Science University Malaysia, Skyline University College and the Zhejiang Institute of Geology. These agreements support joint research, exchange, teaching cooperation and scientific communication.

A particularly concrete 2024 example is the tripartite collaboration between AAU, Gulf Medical University and Dubai Pharmacy College to develop a standardised pharmacy graduation examination. The three institutions pooled academic expertise and assessment experience to strengthen programme outcomes and comparability. This shows universities moving from dialogue to a shared educational mechanism.

The relationships become active through the Global Digital Health Conference, Annual Student Conference and Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium. Those forums connect colleges, researchers and students across countries and disciplines through presentations, workshops, poster sessions, peer review and structured discussion. Formal agreements provide continuity; recurring conferences provide the working space for exchange.

Public evidence: E11 | E12 | E17 | E18 | E19 | E20 | E41 | E42 | E43 | E44 | E45 | E46 | E47

Tripartite Collaboration Between Al Ain University, Gulf Medical University, and Dubai Pharmacy to Standardize the Pharmacy Graduation Exam



In a landmark move to enhance the quality of pharmacy education across the UAE, the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University has teamed up with Dubai Pharmacy College and Gulf Medical University to launch a unified exit exam initiative. This collaboration aims to standardize the assessment of

pharmacy graduates, ensuring they meet high professional standards and are well-prepared for their careers in healthcare.

This collaboration aims to standardize the assessment of pharmacy graduates, ensuring they meet high professional standards and are well-prepared for their careers in healthcare.

This initiative is crucial as it aligns pharmacy education with global best practices, ensuring that all graduates possess the necessary competencies for professional success. By standardizing exit exams, the initiative addresses the need for consistent and rigorous evaluation of pharmacy students, enhancing their readiness and employability in both local and international markets.

Central to this initiative are the efforts of the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), whose advocacy for best practices in programmatic assessment has been a driving force. The CAA's support and encouragement have been instrumental in bringing this initiative to fruition, highlighting their commitment to elevating educational outcomes and setting new benchmarks for pharmacy education in the UAE. Moreover, such an initiative lays the groundwork for the eventual establishment of a common national exit exam for pharmacy graduates in the UAE, setting a standardized competency benchmark across the country.

Prof. Mohammad Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University, commented: "This unified exit exam is a significant step forward in ensuring that our pharmacy graduates are evaluated with the highest standards. Our goals with this initiative are to learn from each other, benchmark our curriculums, maintain the areas of strength, and improve on weaknesses. We believe this experience will also encourage other institutions to join us in adopting these good practices."

Prof. Sherief Khalifa, Dean Dubai College of Pharmacy commented: This project is the first step towards having a unified exit exam across the UAE. It serves to ensure that all pharmacy graduates in the country exhibit the UAE Professional Competencies for pharmacy graduates. It will also serve to bring all pharmacy academicians together to engage in wider discussions related to advancing pharmacy education and practice. I am extremely proud of this partnership with Al Ain University and Gulf Medical University.

Prof. Muhammad Al-Shorbagy, Dean College of Pharmacy, Gulf Medical University commented: "The unified exit exam is a pivotal advancement in standardizing pharmacy education across the UAE. This initiative ensures our graduates meet the highest professional standards, enhancing their readiness for the healthcare sector. It also underscores our commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement among the leading pharmacy colleges".

Collaboration Agreement Between Al Ain University and Al Noor University to Strengthen Academic and Research Cooperation



The President of Al Ain University, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, signed a cooperation agreement with Al Noor University in Iraq, represented by its President, Professor Yassin Al-Hajjar. The signing ceremony was attended by Prof. Ibtehal Abu Rezeq, Vice President for Development and Follow-up Affairs, and Prof. Nazih Khaddaj Mallat, Vice President for Accreditation and Quality Assurance Affairs, along with several guests from Al Noor University.

This agreement aims to strengthen academic and research collaboration between Al Ain University and Al Noor University across various scientific fields. It also seeks to facilitate the exchange of academic and research expertise between faculty members, as well as to organize joint student exchange programs between the two universities, providing students with opportunities to gain new educational experiences and enhance their academic and professional skills.

The agreement also includes the development of joint research projects and opens doors for collaboration in areas that serve the local and regional communities. Additionally, it promotes the organization of periodic scientific conferences and workshops. This agreement represents a significant step in enhancing academic relations between educational institutions in the region, contributing to the advancement of higher education and the elevation of academic and research quality.

In line with the agreement, and on the sidelines of the opening of the Fourth International Conference of the Arab Association for Sport Psychology titled "Sports for Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding," which was jointly organized with Al Noor University, Prof. Majed Al-Saleh, Professor of Sports Training at Al Ain University, received the conference shield on behalf of Professor El Refae. Al Ain University was recognized as one of the key partners in the success of the conference, which was held in Dubai from September 5-7, 2024, under the gracious patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Surour Al Sharqi. The event was attended by an elite group of scholars in sports psychology and sports sciences from 14 Arab and European countries.

Al Ain University signs an MOU with Murdoch University



In a significant development for global academic collaboration, Al Ain University (AAU) and Murdoch University (MU) have officially signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), charting a new course for international educational partnership. The MoU was signed in the presence of Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University, and Dr. Mustafa Khairi, the former Dean of the College of Pharmacy at AAU, representing the commitment of AAU to this groundbreaking initiative. From Murdoch University, the signatories included Prof. Simon McKirdy, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement in MU, underscoring MU's dedication to enhancing its global engagement and research impact.

The agreement marks a significant step forward in international educational cooperation, with both institutions committing to a wide range of collaborative activities. These initiatives are designed to enhance the educational landscape, foster cultural exchange, and promote global understanding.

The signing of this MoU between Al Ain University and Murdoch University is not just a testament to their commitment to academic excellence and international cooperation but also a beacon of hope for future generations. It promises to open new doors for students and faculty alike, offering them unprecedented opportunities for learning, research, and personal growth. The collaboration is expected to yield significant benefits for both academic communities, fostering a spirit of innovation and mutual respect that transcends geographical boundaries.

Cooperation Agreement Between Al Ain University and MSU in Malaysia



In a step to enhance academic and research collaboration, Al Ain University has signed a cooperation agreement with Management Science University (MSU) in Malaysia. This agreement is part of Al Ain University's strategy to strengthen its international partnerships and exchange expertise with prestigious universities around the world.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Noor Aldeen Atatreh, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Al Ain University, and Prof Tan Sri Dato' Wira Dr. Mohd Shukri, President of Management Science University in Malaysia. Prof. Mohammad Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Mohammad Bustanuddin, Director of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, along with several officials, attended the signing ceremony.

The agreement encompasses cooperation in various fields, including exchanging students and faculty members. It also aims to enhance research activities and organize conferences and workshops to facilitate knowledge exchange and skill development between the two parties.

Dr. Atatreh affirmed that this partnership represents a significant step toward achieving Al Ain University's vision of building bridges of cooperation with global universities to support students and enhance the university's international standing.

For his part, the President of Management Science University praised the importance of this agreement in strengthening academic relations between the two institutions, confirming the Malaysian university's commitment to supporting cooperation initiatives.

This agreement aligns with Al Ain University's direction toward supporting academic and research excellence, providing opportunities for students and faculty members to benefit from diverse educational and research experiences.

AAU Signs an MOU with Skyline University College



Al Ain University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Skyline University College in Sharjah to strengthen library resources and services between the two institutions.

The MoU was signed at the SUC campus in Sharjah by Dr. Abdoulaye Kaba, Director of AAU Library, and Mr. Manivel Balasubramaniam, Head of SUC Library.

The agreement encompasses the exchange of scholars for lectures and discussions, as well as the sharing of ideas related to libraries, information science, and other fields of knowledge.

This agreement aims to foster and expand collaboration between their libraries, allowing both institutions to facilitate library visits and provide access to all library facilities for visiting users. The MoU also includes provisions for sharing reference information and exchanging scholarly publications.

An MOU with Zhejiang Institute of Geology in China



The College of Engineering at Al Ain University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zhejiang Institute of Geology in the People's Republic of China, a first-tier public institution under the Zhejiang Provincial Government. The institute specializes in theoretical and applied geological studies, integrating advanced scientific research with practical applications across multiple geological fields. It is committed to developing innovative geology and natural resources solutions and is distinguished by its international collaborations with various academic and research institutions.

The signing ceremony occurred at the Abu Dhabi campus, attended by a high-level Zhejiang Institute of Geology delegation, including senior officials who traveled specifically from China to the UAE to finalize the agreement.

The MoU was signed on behalf of Al Ain University by Prof. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Shara, Director of the Civil Engineering Program, and on behalf of the Zhejiang Institute of Geology by Dr. Gu Hongwei, Director of Green Development in Mining Research. The event was witnessed by Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of the University, along with department heads, directors, and faculty members from both sides.

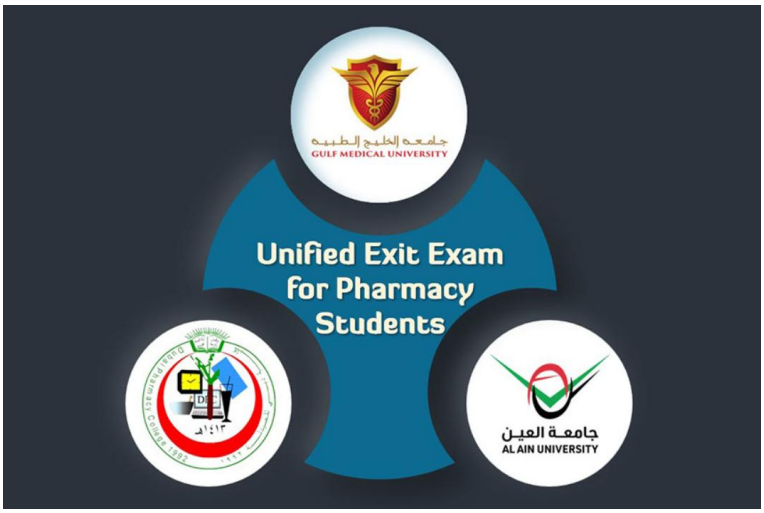
This partnership aims to establish a strategic collaboration between the two institutions by exchanging academic and research expertise in various fields, particularly civil engineering and geology. The MoU outlines cooperative initiatives in diverse areas, including: Geological surveys, Mineral resource research, Exploration, development, and utilization of mineral resources, Research on sustainable building materials, Geological engineering, Geotechnical engineering, Urban geological safety, Prevention and control of geological hazards, Ecological restoration of land and regions, Resource and environmental assessments

This agreement marks a pivotal step in building academic bridges between the two parties, offering students and faculty opportunities to engage in educational and research exchange programs. These initiatives will contribute to developing scientific and research skills for both sides.

During the visit, the Chinese delegation toured the civil engineering laboratories at Al Ain University, exploring the university's advanced facilities in this field, which reflect the high quality and scientific development achieved by the university in its academic programs and research labs.

Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of Al Ain University - Abu Dhabi, expressed his delight at the signing of the MoU, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in advancing education and scientific research. He emphasized that this agreement would be a starting point for new and fruitful partnerships with global academic institutions.

College of Pharmacy, GMU Joins Hands with Dubai Pharmacy College and Al-Ain University to Create a Standardized Exit Exam



In a landmark move to enhance the quality of pharmacy education across the UAE, the College of Pharmacy, Gulf Medical University has teamed up with the Colleges of Pharmacy at Dubai Pharmacy College and Al-Ain University to launch a unified exit exam initiative. This collaboration aims to standardize the assessment of pharmacy graduates, ensuring they meet high professional standards and are well-prepared for their careers in healthcare.

This initiative is crucial as it aligns pharmacy education with global best practices, ensuring that all graduates possess the necessary competencies for professional success. By standardizing exit exams, the initiative addresses the need for consistent and rigorous evaluation of pharmacy students, enhancing their readiness and employability in both local and international markets.

Central to this initiative are the efforts of the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), whose advocacy for best practices in programmatic assessment has been a driving force. The CAA's support and encouragement have been instrumental in bringing this initiative to fruition, highlighting their commitment to elevating educational outcomes and setting new benchmarks for pharmacy education in the UAE. Moreover, such an initiative lays the groundwork for the eventual establishment of a common national exit exam for pharmacy graduates in the UAE, setting a standardized competency benchmark across the country.

Prof. Muhammad Al-Shorbagy, Dean College of Pharmacy, Gulf Medical University commented: “The unified exit exam is a pivotal advancement in standardizing pharmacy education across the UAE. This initiative ensures our graduates meet the highest professional standards, enhancing their readiness for the healthcare sector. It also underscores our commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement among the leading pharmacy colleges”.

Prof. Sherief Khalifa, Dean Dubai College of Pharmacy commented: This project is the first step towards having a unified exit exam across the UAE. It serves to ensure that all pharmacy graduates in the country exhibit the UAE Professional Competencies for pharmacy graduates. It will also serve to bring all pharmacy academicians together to engage in wider discussions related to advancing pharmacy education and practice. I am extremely proud of this partnership with Al Ain University and Gulf Medical University.

Prof. Mohammad Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University, commented: “This unified exit exam is a significant step forward in ensuring that our pharmacy graduates are evaluated with the highest standards. Our goals with this initiative are to learn from each other, benchmark our curriculums, maintain the areas of strength, and improve on weaknesses. We believe this experience will also encourage other institutions to join us in adopting these good practices.”

COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTION

10. Resources, dialogue formats and outcomes

AAU's cross-sector model reflects the purpose of SDG 17: mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and institutional capacity. The University's role is not limited to providing a venue. It designs programmes, convenes participants, contributes researchers and students, supports peer review and workshops, and maintains agreements that allow dialogue to continue through research, training and implementation.

Sector	Principal contribution	Examples of dialogue and outcome
Government and regulators	Policy priorities, standards, public data, implementation authority	WEEC and Abu Dhabi Roadmap; health accreditation; economic policy; engineer registration; environmental research priorities
Universities and researchers	Evidence, laboratories, peer review, teaching and comparative experience	Digital-health research; student sustainability research; postgraduate health symposium; shared pharmacy assessment
NGOs and public-interest bodies	Community access, youth programmes, volunteer networks and beneficiary knowledge	Youth empowerment, women's self-sufficiency, job-readiness education and educator capacity
Industry and professions	Technology, practice-based problems, specialist expertise and labour-market insight	Digital-health exhibition, energy research, engineering partnerships and professional accounting development
AAU	Convening, programme design, research, facilities, student participation and partnership governance	International conferences, annual forums, targeted workshops, MoUs, dissemination and continued collaboration

CROSS-SECTOR VALUE

The combination of policy authority, academic evidence, community knowledge and implementation capacity enables participants to identify shared challenges, compare solutions, build skills, establish research priorities and carry agreed ideas into programmes, partnerships and institutional practice.

Public evidence: E11 | E17 | E19 | E24 | E28 | E32 | E35 | E38 | E41

Al Ain University and Siemens Energy collaborate to Foster Research and Innovation in the Energy Sector

Posted on:Sep 18, 2024



An MOU between Al Ain University and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

Posted on:Mar 13, 2023



Tripartite Collaboration Between Al Ain University, Gulf Medical University, and Dubai Pharmacy to Standardize the Pharmacy Graduation Exam

Posted on:Jul 02, 2024



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CONTINUITY BEYOND 2024

11. The dialogue platform remains active and expanding

Evidence after the 2024 reporting year confirms that AAU's cross-sector dialogue is sustained. These later activities are presented as continuity and institutional development, while the formal answer remains grounded in 2024 evidence.

Date	Continuation evidence	Cross-sector significance
2025	Eighth Annual Environmental Day on climate finance and environmental sustainability	Continues a programmed forum linking environmental knowledge with finance, policy and institutional action
2025	First Concrete Convention with 20 companies and seven leading universities	Connects academia, engineering industry, technology and sustainable construction practice
2025	MoU with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute	Adds a policy-research partner whose model includes joint projects, publications, policy dialogues and sustainable-development conferences
2025	UAE Ministry of Economy Knowledge and Innovation Hub	Institutionalises academic input into economic-policy research, legislation, data and roundtable dialogue
2025	Sandooq Al Watan dialogue session hosted at AAU	Enables students to question nonprofit leadership, present views and exhibit innovations related to national development
2026	International Conference on Smart Management, Green Technologies and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems	Brings universities, business, government, policymakers, researchers and entrepreneurs into dialogue on sustainable innovation
2026	Ninth Annual Environmental Day on zero waste	Extends recurring dialogue to circular economy, behaviour, innovation and responsible production

Public evidence: E48 | E49 | E50 | E51 | E52 | E53 | E54 | E55 | E56

Eighth Annual Environmental Day: Promoting Awareness of Climate Finance and Environmental Sustainability



The College of Business at Al Ain University recently hosted the Eighth Annual Environmental Day, centered around the theme "Climate Finance and Environmental Sustainability: Insights from SDG13." The event was organized by Dr. Mosab I. Tabash, Dr. Shorouq Eletter, and Dr. Tahira Yasmin, with the primary goal of raising awareness about climate change and environmental sustainability, particularly emphasizing the United Nations' SDG13.

The event was inaugurated by the University's President, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, who was joined by the Deans, faculty members, staff, and students. He toured the environmental booths set up by the university's colleges, which showcased various initiatives aimed at protecting the environment. Following the inauguration, Dr. Zafar Hussain, Dean of the College of Business, delivered a welcoming speech, emphasizing the critical importance of safeguarding the environment to prevent devastating environmental disasters.

Notable speakers from both government and industry shared their valuable insights on climate change and sustainability. Ms. Aisha Al Mazroui, Project Manager of the Sustainable Campus Initiative from the Environmental Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), discussed various EAD initiatives, including the Sustainable Campus project. Dr. Sivapalan Kathiravale, Head of Research & Development at Tadweer Group, presented information on recycling projects in the UAE and their role in promoting sustainability. Mr. Ghulam Ashraf, Director of Operations at Rise Biofuels, delivered an engaging presentation on how his company uses biofuels to reduce carbon emissions and emphasized the need for biofuels as a sustainable alternative.

During the event, two groups of students participated in an environmental competition, managed by Praveen Dhas, a College of Business student. The winning team was awarded prizes. Additionally, a plantation drive was held on the university campus, sponsored by Barari Natural Resources, with active participation from the Dean, faculty, and students.

Al Ain University is proud to be part of the Sustainable Campus initiative, overseen by the Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency. The university has earned high rankings in the UI Green Metric World University Ranking, Sustainability Ranking, and Impact Ranking, reflecting its growing commitment to addressing pressing environmental challenges.

AAU Hosts the First Concrete Convention 2025, Bringing Together 20 Companies and 7 Leading Universities



Al Ain University successfully hosted the First Concrete Convention 2025, bringing together 20 leading companies and 7 universities from across the UAE in a dynamic and impactful event. The strong engagement, high energy, and depth of discussions reflected the ambition and growth of the concrete community across both academia and industry.

The convention featured six in-depth presentations delivered by six exceptional speakers, who explored key topics including sustainability, innovation, materials, and emerging concrete technologies. Each session opened the door to new insights and fostered meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

Speakers included:

Dr. Jad Bawab – British Applied College, Umm Al Quwain

Eng. Lubna Sinan – Milieu Environmental Consultancy

Eng. Ahmad Mandalawi – Bekaert Emirates LLC

Eng. Daniel Touma – Sika UAE

Eng. Tolga Tasci – Zublin Construction L.L.C

Dr. Mohammed Zuaiter – Khalifa University

A major highlight of the convention was the student exhibition organized by AAU's Civil Engineering students, who showcased innovative concrete products designed for modern applications. Their creativity, technical expertise, and commitment to sustainability were strongly evident—an achievement that reflects both the promising future of the field and AAU's ongoing excellence.

In addition, several leading equipment suppliers demonstrated advanced technologies and cutting-edge systems in concrete production, testing, and quality control. Their participation brought significant value to the event and helped bridge the gap between academic research and real-world implementation.

The convention successfully created a platform where: Industry explored practical and ready-to-deploy innovations, academia shared research shaping the future of the field, and students presented fresh perspectives and next-generation ideas. Through this collaboration, the event strengthened the link between research, technology, and application, laying the foundation for an annual tradition that will continue to grow in reach and impact.

MOU Signed Between College of Business at Al Ain University and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan



The College of Business at Al Ain Campus, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Pakistan to enhance collaboration in joint research, knowledge exchange, and policy dialogues on key issues such as sustainability, economic development, and climate resilience. The MOU was signed by Prof. Zafar Hussain, Dean of the College of Business at Al Ain University, and Dr. Sajid Amin, Deputy Executive Director of SDPI. The partnership aims to open opportunities for international training and consultancy for both students and faculty members in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By leveraging the expertise of both institutions, the collaboration is committed to advancing impactful research that addresses urgent global challenges.

Ministry of Economy & Tourism launches 'Knowledge and Innovation Hub' to strengthen collaboration with UAE's academic sector in economic policy, research, and studies



22 May 2025

Ministry of Economy & Tourism launches 'Knowledge and Innovation Hub' to strengthen collaboration with UAE's academic sector in economic policy, research, and studies

MoUs signed with 18 universities and research institutions from across the country

The Ministry of Economy & Tourism launched the 'Knowledge and Innovation Hub' in collaboration with some of the leading institutions from the UAE's academic sector. This strategic initiative aims to foster partnerships between the Ministry and academic entities in the fields of economic policy, research, and innovation. The launch took place during a dedicated event hosted by the Ministry in Dubai, held in the presence of H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, alongside senior officials from the Ministry and representatives from participating academic institutions.

As part of the initiative, the Ministry signed a series of partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 18 universities, research institutions, and innovation centres from across the country. These agreements are designed to enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise between the Ministry and entities concerned with economic legislation, policy development, and other related disciplines. The collaboration seeks to adopt global best practices to build an integrated national knowledge network that supports the development of forward-looking economic policies and strengthens the competitiveness of the UAE's economy and business ecosystem.

H.E. Bin Touq said: "The UAE has consistently prioritised the development of economic legislation in line with global best practices, in recognition of its role in driving growth of the national economy and enhancing regional and global competitiveness. Today, through the launch of the Knowledge and Innovation Hub, we are expanding our engagement with universities and academic institutions within the UAE's academic sector. It creates a new platform that drives research and innovation and connects knowledge with economic policymaking, thereby fostering collaboration in this regard. The initiative aligns with the UAE's strategic vision to build a knowledge-based, innovation-driven economy, in line with the objectives of 'We the UAE 2031' vision."

His Excellency added: “The universities and research centres in the UAE are not merely institutions for vocational and technical training and education; they possess deep understanding of the economic and social challenges we are facing. This underscores the importance of this initiative in leveraging the expertise of these institutions to develop globally leading policies that support the UAE’s sustainable economic development.”

The Minister of Economy explained that while education is not directly reflected in GDP, its impact is both profound and far-reaching. It enhances labour productivity, advances technological efficiency, attracts investment, and supports entrepreneurship and innovation. Education also plays a critical role in equipping future generations with the knowledge, skills, and values essential for driving societal progress.

Academic partners of the ‘Knowledge and Innovation Hub’ include Khalifa University, the American University of Sharjah, NYU Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, the University of Sharjah, the American University in the Emirates, the American University in Dubai, the University of Dubai, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU), Abu Dhabi University, the American University of Ras Al Khaimah, the University of Fujairah, Umm Al Quwain University, the Abu Dhabi School of Management, Al Ain University (AAU), the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government, TRENDS Research & Advisory, and Fiker Center.

The MoUs are aimed at building capacities across key economic sectors and disciplines, producing research and studies aligned with the UAE’s economic priorities, and organizing academic roundtables and workshops to exchange insights on economic policies and developments. They also seek to translate academic research into actionable practices, foster collaboration with international universities, and develop academic and executive education programs. In addition, the agreements aim to promote community awareness of entrepreneurship, innovation, and a culture of creativity, while also providing training and awareness initiatives tailored for students.

The signing ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Safeya Hashem Al Safi, Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Control and Governance Sector at the Ministry of Economy & Tourism, and Her Excellency Dr. Maria Hanif Al Qassim, Assistant Undersecretary for the Policies and Economic Studies Sector at the Ministry of Economy & Tourism, along with various university presidents, deans, executive directors, and staff representatives from 22 academic institutions and universities from across the country.

The event featured two panel sessions. The first, titled “Academic Insight and Policy Impact: Advancing Innovation through Institutional and Academic Collaboration,” focused on the role of academic institutions in supporting economic development and enhancing competitiveness through innovation and the potential for building effective frameworks for intellectual property (IP). The second session, “Data and Decisions: Role of Academia in Policymaking,” explored the importance of academic institutions and universities in shaping innovative economic policies and driving sustainable growth of economies.

A dialogue session at Al Ain University on the role of the "Nation Fund" in supporting Emirati talents



Al Ain, February 16 /WAM/ His Excellency Yasser Al Gergawi, Director General of the Homeland Fund, affirmed the keenness of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Homeland Fund, to enhance the capabilities of the sons and daughters of the Emirates, and empower them for the future, especially university students, and to strengthen the values of national identity in their hearts, and to embody this on the ground through dozens of initiatives and major projects implemented by the Fund throughout the year, according to a clear vision whose motto is “A strong and sustainable national identity, its pillars: empowerment, productivity, and responsibility,” stressing that His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak is keen to achieve the vision of His Highness the President of the State to empower the youth.

This came during Al Ain University’s hosting of His Excellency Yasser Al Gergawi in a dialogue session that addressed the role of the “Homeland Fund” in supporting creativity, innovation and Emirati talents, and enhancing national identity. The session witnessed a remarkable attendance from the university’s professors, led by Dr. Nour El Din Atatrah, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Professor Dr. Ghaleb Al Rifai, President of the University, in addition to members of the academic and administrative staff and university students who interacted with the ideas and visions presented.

Al Gergawi said that the “Nation Fund” is one of the most important community initiatives that our dear homeland abounds with, and aims to enhance national identity through three main pillars: productivity, responsibility, and empowerment, by investing in young Emirati minds, supporting and empowering talented Emirati sons and daughters, and promoting the knowledge economy, according to a clear vision and innovative programs that include entrepreneurship, modern technology, and professional development.

He pointed out that the “Homeland Fund” reflects the spirit of giving and social responsibility in the UAE, by providing the right environment for ambitious young people and enabling them to turn their ideas into projects with a sustainable impact, especially in the field of national identity and serving local communities. He added that the fund works to establish strategic partnerships with leading educational

institutions, which contributes to empowering students and enhancing their practical skills, and provides many incentive and training initiatives and programs.

For his part, Dr. Nour El-Din Atatrah praised the prominent role played by the “Homeland Fund” in empowering Emirati talents, promoting the knowledge-based economy, and supporting entrepreneurial projects, explaining that this session comes within the framework of the university’s commitment to providing a stimulating educational environment that combines academic knowledge and real-world experiences, with the aim of developing students’ capabilities and preparing them for the labor market.

He added that the National Fund initiative represents an inspiring model for supporting national talents, expressing the university’s aspiration for further cooperation to enhance students’ opportunities and develop their skills in line with the aspirations of the United Arab Emirates.

During the session, the students raised questions about how to benefit from the "Homeland Fund" initiatives and the opportunities available to them. A number of them also presented their own vision regarding projects and activities related to strengthening national identity and the role of university students in them, expressing their pride in the role of the National Identity Pioneers Program, which is organized by the Fund in cooperation with the country's universities.

Al Ain University administration affirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation with the “Nation Fund” through joint initiatives aimed at empowering students and supporting their entrepreneurial projects, in line with the UAE’s vision of building a sustainable knowledge economy, noting the importance of enhancing cooperation between universities and national institutions to support students and enable them to achieve their ambitions.

A special exhibition of student projects and innovations was held concurrently with the session, showcasing a range of creative solutions in various fields, from smart technology and artificial intelligence to environmental projects and engineering innovations.

Al Ain University Successfully Concludes the International Conference on Smart Management, Green Technologies, and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems



Al Ain University, represented by the College of Business, successfully concluded the International Conference on Smart Management, Green Technologies, and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (ICSMGEE 2026), held under the esteemed patronage of H.E. Sheikh Theyab bin Tahnoon bin Mohammed Al Nahyan on 28–29 April 2026, in collaboration with EuroMid, with broad international academic participation.

The conference witnessed remarkable global engagement, hosting 169 presenters from 46 institutions across 18 countries, through both physical and virtual participation, reflecting the spirit of inclusive and borderless academic collaboration and reinforcing the importance of global knowledge exchange.

The opening ceremony was honored by Dr. Noor Al Atatrah, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Al Ain University, and Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University, along with distinguished guests from government institutions, whose presence underscored the university's commitment to academic excellence and institutional collaboration.

The conference featured keynote addresses delivered by leading global experts, including Dr. Yvonne L. Hinson, CEO of the American Accounting Association (USA), Prof. Miroslav Mateev, Vice President & Provost at SEE Institute, The Sustainable City Dubai (UAE), and Dr. Arjoon Suddhoo, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat (UK). Their addresses highlighted key issues related to sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurial transformation.

A panel discussion on academia–industry partnerships followed, bringing together prominent academic leaders, including Prof. Amer Qasim, Vice President at Al Ain University (Abu Dhabi Campus); Dr. Assaad Farah, Provost & Chief Academic Officer and Dean of the School of Business at the American University in Dubai; and Prof. Washika Haak Saheem, Professor and Dean of Dubai Business School at the University of Dubai. The panel explored critical pathways for strengthening collaboration between academia and industry and accelerating sustainable transformation within business ecosystems.

From an academic perspective, the conference expanded its scope through two dedicated featured tracks that significantly enriched its scholarly impact. On Day 1, the Undergraduate Research Symposium provided a dynamic platform for students enrolled in the Scientific Research Methodology course to present 35 innovative research projects, demonstrating early-stage academic inquiry and engagement with real-world business challenges.

On Day 2, the Doctoral Colloquium offered a rigorous scholarly forum where DBA students presented 31 advanced research papers. This session enabled in-depth academic discussion, constructive feedback, and intellectual exchange, contributing to strengthening research culture and supporting the development of high-quality doctoral scholarship.

The conference also showcased strong academic activity, with 90 research presentations delivered across 10 parallel sessions on Day 1, and 48 research papers presented across 5 online parallel sessions on Day 2, reflecting the diversity and depth of the conference themes.

ICSMGTEE 2026 served as a comprehensive platform for knowledge exchange, critical dialogue, and interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, and faculty members within a stimulating academic environment that fosters innovation and critical thinking.

At the conclusion of the conference, the College of Business at Al Ain University extended its sincere appreciation to university leadership, esteemed guests, advisory board members, keynote speakers, panelists, presenters, reviewers, session chairs, doctoral mentors, organizing teams, and its institutional partner EuroMid for their invaluable contributions to the success of this event.

The College reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening a sustainable research culture and fostering deeper collaboration between academia, industry, and society, further advancing Al Ain University's vision of global academic engagement and research excellence.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

12. Governance and strategic integration

AAU's Strategic and Operational Plans establish partnership, research, community engagement and sustainable development as institutional priorities. The University's SDG 17 hub and Partnerships for the Goals framework publicly organise evidence of government, academic, civil-society and industry cooperation. The Sustainability Research Centre provides an additional research platform for multidisciplinary work on sustainability challenges.

Annual reports and the Fact Book document the institutional activities, partnerships and outcomes through which this strategy is implemented. This governance framework enables colleges, research units, student affairs, alumni services and external-relations functions to contribute to cross-sector dialogue through coordinated conferences, workshops, agreements and public reporting.

Public evidence: E03 | E04 | E05 | E06 | E07 | E08 | E09 | E10

Required topic	AAU evidence established
Cross-sector SDG conferences	AAU-initiated digital-health, sustainability, environmental and biomedical forums plus participation in government-led WEEC 2024
Government collaboration	Ministry of Economy, Al Ain Municipality, EAD, education and accreditation authorities; research, standards, policy and training dialogue
NGO and civil-society collaboration	Sandooq Al Watan, General Women's Union, INJAZ UAE and Educators Without Borders; youth, skills, education and community programmes
Training and research cooperation	Workshops, joint research networks, professional development, research presentations, peer review, exhibitions and applied partnerships
College and university relationships	Arab regional conference network, postgraduate symposium, tripartite assessment initiative and 2024 academic-research agreements
Institutional continuity	Strategic plan, SDG governance, research centre, annual reporting and recurring event series supported by formal partnerships

FORMAL CONCLUSION

13. Institutional conclusion

YES — AAU INITIATES AND PARTICIPATES IN CROSS-SECTORAL SDG DIALOGUE

Al Ain University convenes and joins structured dialogue in which government, universities, NGOs and public-interest organisations, healthcare and research institutions, professional bodies and industry combine knowledge and resources to address sustainable-development challenges. The 2024 reporting-year record includes major international conferences, a government-led congress with a documented roadmap, recurring university forums, research symposia, professional workshops and partnership-based training.

AAU's strongest 2024 example is the Global Digital Health Conference, which connected policy, regulation, research, clinical practice, education and technology around the future of healthcare. AAU's participation in WEEC 2024 demonstrates the complementary role of joining government- and internationally led dialogue and contributing to a collective environmental-education roadmap. The Annual Student Conference and Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium show how AAU also sustains relationships among colleges and universities through recurring research exchange.

Focused collaborations with the Ministry of Economy, Al Ain Municipality, Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi, Sandooq Al Watan, the General Women's Union, INJAZ UAE, Educators Without Borders and industry partners extend dialogue into training, research, professional standards and community capability. AAU therefore meets this indicator through a coherent institutional system of initiation, participation, collaboration and continuing public engagement.

Public evidence: E01 | E04 | E11 | E17 | E19 | E22 | E24 | E25 | E28 | E32 | E35 | E38 | E41

PUBLIC EVIDENCE REGISTER

Evidence register | Framework and flagship conference

All evidence IDs in this report resolve to public sources. AAU evidence is supplemented by UAE government, independent media, university-partner and United Nations sources.

ID	Public source and direct link
E01	THE Sustainability Impact Ratings Methodology 2026
E02	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17
E03	AAU SDG 17 institutional hub
E04	AAU public evidence document for Indicator 17.2.2
E05	AAU: Partnerships for the Goals
E06	AAU Strategic and Operational Plans 2021-2025, 2024-2025 edition
E07	AAU Annual Report 2023-2024
E08	AAU Annual Report 2024-2025
E09	AAU Fact Book 2024-2025
E10	AAU Sustainability Research Centre
E11	AAU Global Digital Health Conference 2024 news
E12	Global Digital Health Conference 2024 official site
E13	Global Digital Health Conference 2024 programme
E14	Association of Arab Universities coverage of AAU Global Digital Health Conference

PUBLIC EVIDENCE REGISTER

Evidence register | 2024 conferences and government dialogue

ID	Public source and direct link
E15	Emirates News Agency: Global Digital Health Conference preview
E16	Emirates News Agency: opening of the Global Digital Health Conference
E17	AAU Annual Student Conference 2024 news
E18	Annual Student Conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs
E19	AAU second Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium 2024
E20	Aletihad: Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium concludes at AAU
E21	AAU seventh Annual Environmental Day 2024
E22	AAU participates in the World Environmental Education Congress 2024
E23	Abu Dhabi Media Office: Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi to host WEEC 2024
E24	Abu Dhabi Media Office: WEEC 2024 and the Abu Dhabi Roadmap
E25	AAU delegation visits the UAE Ministry of Economy, 2024
E26	AAU workshop on the engineer-registration system with Al Ain Municipality
E27	AAU engineer-registration workshop event record
E28	AAU and Sandooq Al Watan collaborate to empower youth, 2024

PUBLIC EVIDENCE REGISTER

Evidence register | Nonprofit, research and industry partners

ID	Public source and direct link
E29	Sandooq Al Watan: organisation profile
E30	Emirates News Agency: National Identity Clubs launched in UAE schools and universities
E31	AAU and General Women's Union workshop, 2024
E32	AAU and INJAZ UAE job-readiness workshop, 2024
E33	INJAZ UAE: youth education and workforce-readiness programmes
E34	AAU and Educators Without Borders International memorandum
E35	AAU and Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi memorandum
E36	Abu Dhabi Media Office: EAD partners with eight UAE universities
E37	Emirates News Agency: official launch of the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network
E38	AAU and Siemens Energy research and innovation partnership, 2024
E39	AAU partnerships with engineering and technology companies, 2024
E40	AAU event and memorandum with the Institute of Management Accountants, 2024
E41	AAU, Gulf Medical University and Dubai Pharmacy College standardise the pharmacy graduation exam
E42	Gulf Medical University: tripartite standardised pharmacy exit exam

PUBLIC EVIDENCE REGISTER

Evidence register | University networks and continuity

ID	Public source and direct link
E43	AAU and Al-Noor University academic and research agreement, 2024
E44	AAU and Murdoch University memorandum, 2024
E45	AAU and Management and Science University Malaysia agreement, 2024
E46	AAU and Skyline University College memorandum, 2024
E47	AAU and Zhejiang Institute of Geology memorandum, 2024
E48	AAU eighth Annual Environmental Day 2025
E49	AAU first Concrete Convention 2025
E50	AAU and Sustainable Development Policy Institute memorandum, 2025
E51	Sustainable Development Policy Institute partnerships and policy-dialogue framework
E52	UAE Ministry of Economy launches Knowledge and Innovation Hub with AAU, 2025
E53	Emirates News Agency: Sandooq Al Watan dialogue at AAU, 2025
E54	International Conference on Smart Management, Green Technologies and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems 2026
E55	AAU concludes the 2026 smart management and green technologies conference
E56	AAU ninth Annual Environmental Day 2026