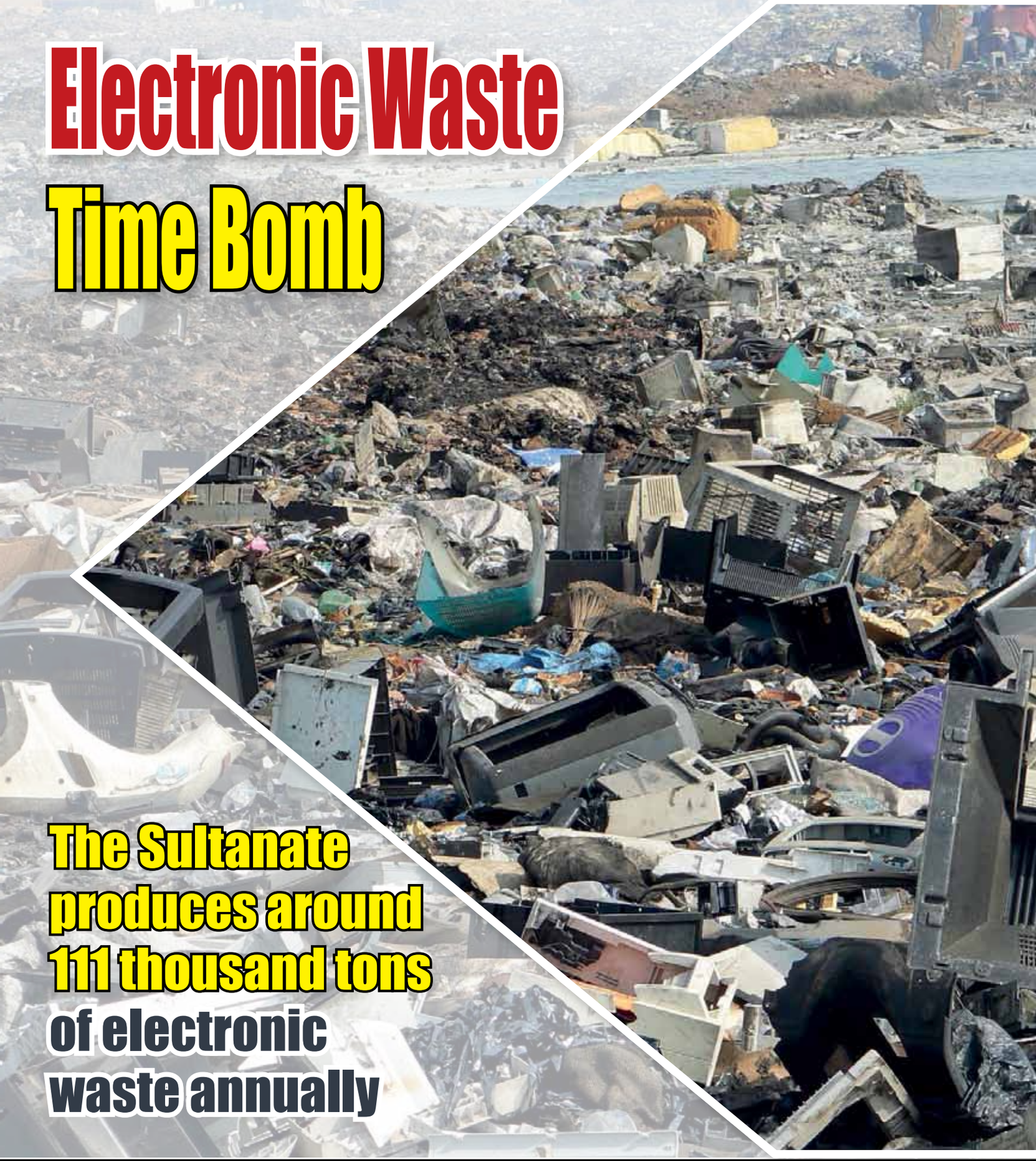
The National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation
About innovative Environmental Research

الوشق
Lynx

Sultanate of Oman
Diwan of Royal Court

January 2019 - Jomadi al Ola 1440
Environmental monthly newsletter issued by the National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation
Issue 38

Electronic Waste Time Bomb



The Sultanate produces around 111 thousand tons of electronic waste annually

«Bee›ah» Launches its Environmental Excellence Program for New Graduates

Oman Environment Services Holding Company (Bee›ah) launched its Environmental Excellence Program in its second edition for the new graduates of the Universities and Colleges, with the participation of 14 graduates. The program aims to train the graduates and build the Omani capacity to move towards environmental sustainability, community awareness and work on projects and programs aimed at finding solutions to environmentally negative phenomena in handling the waste. The program aims to increase environmental awareness by involving the community in applying waste minimization practices and raising awareness about sustainable development practices in solid waste management. The induction week will introduce the trainees to the company›s strategy in managing the waste sector in the Sultanate and introduce them to the awareness messages that the company is seeking to deliver to the community. The week will also include a visit to Al Amirat Engineering Waste Disposal Centre and the Plant of Health Care Waste Treatment, as well as training participants on awareness programs to be launched in the Sultanate›s schools.

A Cooperative Research Program between the National Centre and SQU

The National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation (NFRCEC) has signed a cooperative program with the Sultan Qaboos University based on a cooperative research project for developing a Bird Database and the Oman's Interactive Environmental Atlas within the framework of SQU efforts to support field research.

The program aims to encourage and enhance the capacity of Omani employees, researchers and students to publish their scientific research in the field of environmental conservation locally and internationally, as well as conducting collaborative research on the Oman Bird Database Project and the Oman Interactive Environmental Atlas project.

The research cooperation program was signed by Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Depaty Vice Chancellor for Post Graduate Studies and Research, representing Sultan Qaboos University, and Dr. Saif bin Rashid Al Shqsa, Acting Director of the National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation (NFRCEC).

point of view

Stop Cutting Sidr Trees

Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Al Balushy
Editor-in-Chief

The view of the Sidr trees which is cut and degraded on the ground in some Wilayat of the Sultanate in the recent period, arouses deep sadness for the disastrous situation reached by this blessed tree, which has many benefits. Some expatriate labor cut the branches and leaves of this tree to sell them to some companies for little financial gain. This behavior is an indication of an environmental disaster if not addressed by the competent authorities, as well as by the members of the community.

Damaging this tree or any other tree is a crime punishable by law and environmental legislations in the Sultanate, because it will eventually lead to a serious deterioration in vegetation. There are laws and legislation regulating the use of some of these trees and plants for commercial and therapeutic purposes according to environmental datum that does not harm the Omani environmental system.

The only motive for companies the which encourage cutting of this precious tree, is the financial benefits inherent in this tree. Many cosmetic and medicinal materials are extracted from the Sidr tree. It is considered a valuable treasure for those interested in the manufacture of cosmetics and some medicines, as well as it is popularly used as an alternative medicine to treat many of the normal and chronic diseases that affect humans.

The Sidra blessed tree is mentioned in the Holy Qur›an, in more than one place, indicating the importance of this tree and its functions. It is also mentioned in the noble biography of the Prophet Mohammed and in the ancient history books.

Environmental wise, Sidr is one of the most powerful trees that are resilient to climate change. It is one of the last trees that deteriorate and die naturally. It attracts birds and many living things to live in its shadows and between its branches and roots.

There are efforts made by the competent authorities after the outbreak of this dangerous phenomenon, the phenomenon of cutting Sidr trees. This is why we should intensify observation, not only for this tree, but also for all species of wildlife in the Sultanate to prevent the deterioration of vegetation cover.

Remember, individuals and society remain the first observer who can prevent these phenomena. Therefore, we must all be one hand in suppressing every hand that harms the environment of this precious country.

The symposium has witnessed a wide turnout at the local, regional and international levels

The Coastal Environmental Measures Forum

recommends strengthening the partnership between coastal management stakeholders

The National Centre launches the Marine Environment Film in the Sultanate of Oman, which reviewed the Omani marine environment as a pioneering tourist attraction

The International Symposium on Coastal Environmental Measures and their Role in Coastal Protection witnessed a wide participation at all levels, locally, regionally and internationally. The Symposium was held at Al Wahat Club and jointly organized by the Omani National Committee for Education, Culture and Science. the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Mohammed the Sixth Organization for the protection of the environment in the Kingdom of Morocco in cooperation with the National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation (NFRCEC) at the Diwan of Royal Court and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs in addition to a number of local national and international institutions and organizations which are interested in environmental issues, such as the Photographic Society, representatives of a number of countries which are members of the US ISESCO. Several working papers on the characteristics and areas of the costal environment were presented during the Symposium.

The National Centre presented a study on «Assessment of human waste on the shores of Muscat and Barka

Objectives of the Symposium

The Symposium aimed to build partnerships between the individual and institutional participants to serve environmental protection and supporting the capacities of those who work in this field, as well as supporting environmental awareness about the importance of coastal conservation and coastal environment.

Launching of National Field Research Centre's film

The film subject is the marine environment in the Sultanate of Oman. It is produced by the Centre and comes as a result of the Centre›s research studies. It reviews the most important natural resources of the marine environment in the Sultanate, and the challenges that face it, as well as the promotion of the Omani marine environment as a leading tourist destination in the Sultanate, by highlighting natural elements such as marine reserves, the biological resource such as shrimps, coral reefs and seabirds, as well as the picturesque beaches of Oman›s marine environment.

Sessions and Working Papers

The symposium included a number of sessions over the course of two days in which a number of working papers were presented to several bodies. The first day program included two working sessions, the first focused on the characteristics and areas of the marine environment. The first paper was presented by Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Ghailani from Environmenta Society of Oman, The second paper was presented by Dr. Nechem Idris from the Kingdom of Morocco and entitled «The Moroccan Coast: Challenges for Sustainable Management». The third paper was delivered by Dr. Yassin Sharabi from the Sultan Qaboos University on «Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the coasts of Oman. The session ended with a paper presented by Ahmed bin Jaber Al Busaidi from the National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation on the study of «Assessment of human waste on the shores of Muscat and Barka». The second session of the first day dealt with the governance of sustainable coastal measures and was divided into two axes: the first dealt with the legal aspects of coastal measures and two working papers presented. The first was Bernard Fabrice of the French Republic, entitled «Good governance and sustainable development in coastal areas». While Virginia Westy Abad of the Kingdom of Spain presented the second paper on Spanish Beach Law as a tool for the protection of coastal areas. The second theme was on the role of institutions in coastal measures, and also included two working papers. In the first paper, Nabil al-Mukhtar of the Tunisian Republic dealt with the experience of the Tunisian coast agency and agency in this field. Hilal bin Mohammed Al Nabhani of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs concluded the second working session with a paper discussing the role of the ministry in the management and sustainability of the coastal areas. During the second day of the symposium, three sessions focused on environmental education for sustainable coasts, and presented the experiences of many States involved in the environmental measures of the beaches.

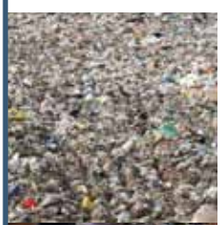
Recommendations

The participants of the International Symposium on Coastal Environmental Measures and its Role in Coast Protection recommended further national and international exchange of experiences on the governance of sustainable coastal measures in the legal and institutional areas and enhancement of the partnership and cooperation between coastal, regional and international stakeholders, as well as the importance of further studies on the impacts of the Climate Change and human activities on the coasts. They also recommended the periodic assessment of the environmental status of the beaches, and the supporting and strengthening the role of civil society institutions in the implementation of sustainable programs and projects to protect the coastal environment, the Environmental education curricula, the exchange of successful experiences in the field of environmental awareness and the development of coastal monitoring mechanisms and studies by using innovative technical methods

The Sultanate Produces Around 111,000 Tons of Electronic Waste Annually

How to Get Rid of

The Electronic Waste is a serious problem, They are the cause behind the acid rains, thus spreading acid pollution on the surface of the earth. Electronic waste consists of hazardous substances such as lead that affect the nervous system, circulatory system, and kidneys, and also has an effect on brain growth. For this reason, electronic waste is one of the most dangerous wastes to the environment and human health. Many countries in the world seek to get rid of them or re-export them abroad, to be recycled and used. In 2017, the Sultanate produced 110810 tons of electronic waste, which is a large quantity that may affect human health and the environment, if not treated properly and safely, whether by recycling or safe disposal. Disposal of devices by dumping them into the trash, is a crime in the opinion of many people. Environmental reports estimate that each personal computer or mobile phone contains more than half the elements of the Periodic Table (periodic table is a sequential order of chemical elements, arranged by atomic number, electronic distribution and repeated chemical properties). So, Lynx opens this dangerous file with the specialized agencies.



What is The Electronic Waste?

Electronic waste is the remains of electronic devices and their waste or broken electronic devices that no longer work and become doomed to be left in the piles of waste as useless waste, but they become dangerous to the environment and cause serious environmental and health risks because they contain heavy metals.

The risks of Electronic Waste on human health

As we have said, Electric Waste «poses catastrophic risks to human health. It is a waste, consumed and dumped daily such as televisions, mobiles phones, batteries and refrigerators, most of which are dangerous elements. The lead that found in televisions and tablets, is one of the most dangerous substances that hit the nervous system, blood circulation and kidneys. It also affects the growth of the brain in children Not only that, there are more dangerous substances such as mercury in the control panels on computers, and other controllers panels, which is harmful to the respiratory system, brain and the skin, and do not overlook the substance of Arsenic. The arsenic is found in the bulbs and chronic exposure to it damages the skin, reducing the speed of nerve conduction, in addition to causing lung cancer.

Real Risk

A shop owner who sells electronics of all kinds, says that he gets rid of Electric Waste in more than one way. He tries to extract parts that can be re-operated, then dumps the useless rest in the trash, or resells it to someone who imports such materials at the world level, pointing out that many parties around the world are seeking to import those wastes to benefit from recycling them, stressing that recycling generates high profits for those working in this business.

Bee›ah Company

For its part, Oman Environment Services Holding Company (Bee›ah), said that

Electronic Waste Time Bomb

This Problem ?!

- The Sultanate is in desperate need For waste disposal Of its economic importance
- Electronic waste consists of hazardous substances such as lead that affect the nervous system, circulatory system, kidneys, and also has an effect on brain growth

Electric Waste Risks to the Environment

Electronic waste can do the worst thing that humans fear – the acid rain, and so the earth will be flooded with acid pollution. Acid waste in the case of burying it with the intention of getting rid of it, does not produce anything other than toxins. Those toxins, when they rise to the sky and enter into the clouds, they simply produce acid rain. Nothing is expected except severe damage to water, air and soil alike. In fact, if we really want to talk about the seriousness of acid pollution, we will need hundreds, if not thousands of articles. It is almost the problem at the meeting table of the world at the moment, but what concerns us now is to get rid of those wastes and their impact so as to prevent the occurrence of all those risks.

Electric Waste is defined as all electronic and electrical devices that have expired their life span and have been disposed of by consumers. They are classified as hazardous waste because they contain hazardous substances that are easily accessible if dismantled, which requires safe handling. The rate of production of these wastes is increasing due to population growth and lifestyle change. The problem is that our country had generated a rate of 110,810 tons in 2017.

In an exclusive statement about the Electric Waste, Bee›ah confirmed that it has launched a project to invest in the construction of the electronic and electrical waste dismantling facility. The project aims to treat hazardous components of electronic waste and to extract recyclable materials in a proper manner, pointing out that non-investment in the Electric Waste sector leads to the loss of valuable materials that can be exported without treatment.

Bee›ah said that it is seeking to communicate with the main producers of these wastes in order to ensure that these wastes reach the disassembly facility and thus achieve proper handling of them. In addition, awareness campaigns will be conducted targeting different segments of society.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs

For its part, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs said in a special statement for Alwashaq, that the electronic waste is classified as hazardous waste, which is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Decision No. 93 / 18 concerning hazardous waste management in accordance with the Law of Environment Protection and Pollution Control issued by the Royal Decree No. (10 / 82), updated by the Royal Decree No. (114 / 2001), noting that the most important challenges facing the process of safe disposal of electronic waste at present is the lack of facilities to prevent the expected environment damage in general, in the absence of the optimal method of disposal process. That is because such wastes contain heavy metals such as lead and others. The Ministry confirmed that it is implementing many environmental awareness programs for all sectors, companies and society groups. It also reviews the importance of integrated waste management in all types including electronic waste, knowledge of its risks and limiting its environmental impacts. The ministry also carries out many activities and national initiatives for environmental awareness in this field, in addition to the programs of awareness aimed at students of universities, colleges and schools in various stages, as well as organizing many conferences, seminars and workshops in coordination and cooperation with various stakeholders.

Interviewed by: Dr. Dawood Al Balushi

The GCC joint action in the field of the environment has made great strides in preserving the environment in the GCC countries. The Gulf Environmental Action System has been characterized by constructive cooperation since its inception and the fruitful cooperation between its countries and its regional and global environment, making it one of the countries that make great efforts to preserve the environment in the world and to identify the most important achievements of the GCC Secretariat since its inception in 1985 and until now. The monthly Lynx news letter, has had this exclusive interview with HE Adel bin Mohammed Al Bastaki, Minister Plenipotentiary and Director of the Environment Department of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In an exclusive interview with Lynx:
The Minister Plenipotentiary of the Environment Department of the General Secretariat of the GCC, reviews the steps and aspirations of the Gulf environmental system

How does the Minister Plenipotentiary assess the GCC Environmental Action System?

The GCC States have taken great strides in the field of cooperation in the field of environment since this area of concern is primarily related to the health and safety of its environment. At its sixth session held in Muscat in 1985, the Supreme Council adopted the general policies and principles of environmental protection, Environmental cooperation between the GCC countries, and many tangible achievements have been achieved from the beginning until now. The Environmental Action System has received recognition for its efforts, from a number of Gulf and international bodies, most notably is His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's Award, which came as token of recognition from His Majesty to the Environmental Action System efforts in the field of joint environmental action (Supreme Council 29th Session, Muscat, 2008), As well as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Award for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Secretariat also received the 2007 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Prize for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in recognition of its efforts with GCC members to join the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol and its coordinating with the Ozone Unit of the United Nations Environment Program / Regional Office for West Asia to work on the development of appropriate alternatives to ozone depleting substances.

What are the most important outcomes of the Gulf Environmental Cooperation?

There are several outputs of the Gulf Environmental Cooperation, most notably in the field of environment and wildlife: is the Convention for the Conservation of Wildlife and Natural Habitats in the GCC States, the Strategic Work Plan of the Committee of Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the registration of the Secretariat as an observer member in a number of international conventions and the General Framework for Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the GCC Countries. That is in addition to the adoption and unification of a number of systems at the GCC level, such as the adoption of the General Environmental Protection System, the Unified System of Environmental Assessment of Projects, the Unified System for the Protection and Development of Wildlife, the Common System for Dealing with Radioactive Materials, the Common Waste Management System, adoption of the coordination procedures among the GCC States regarding the trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes for the purpose of addressing such problem through remedies or recycling. As well, accreditation was given to the Unified System of Hazardous Chemicals Management, the Unified System for the Management of Health-Care Waste, the Unified System of Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the accreditation of Guiding Principles for the Regional Plan for Preparedness and Response to Radiation Accidents in the GCC States and the adoption of the Regulations on Ambient Air Quality, the Regulations for the of Control of Noise, Wastewater and Sludge. As for the field of meteorology and climate, the memorandum of understanding between the countries of the Cooperation Council and the World Meteorological Organization has been adopted and the website of the Standing Committee for Meteorology and Climate also has been adopted.

There are many Integration projects among the GCC countries. We hope you may tell us about the most important projects where work has been initiated?

There are several projects where GCC countries are keen to integrate. In the field of environment and wildlife, there is the GEPAP project in cooperation with the World Bank and the project of cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) .

As for the existing integrated meteorological and climate projects, they include, but not limited to, the Strategic Plan for Cooperation and Joint Action in Meteorology 2019 - 2023, and drafting of the unified meteorological law for the GCC States, in addition to linking the network of weather radars between the GCC States and Earthquake Monitoring, Jeddah Centre for Numerical Forecasts. In the future aspects, there are a number of promising projects, most notably the linking of meteorological networks, the creation of a channel on the You-Tube networks of countries, the establishment of a high-tech network among the GCC States for the issuance of the GCC MET ALARM.

We know that there is a promising strategic plan approved at the meeting of the ministers responsible for the environment in the GCC countries (Jeddah, October 19, 2016) and the committees emanating from them has started their work. What are the objectives of this plan?

The new strategy aims at enhancing environmental protection and environmental health, sustaining biological diversity, enhancing natural capital, sustainable use of natural resources to achieve sustainable development, and finally coordinating the positions of GCC countries towards regional and international environmental agreements and activating strategic international partnerships.

What about the strategic plan for cooperation and joint action in the field of meteorology and climate in the GCC countries, as we know that this plan has already been approved and the committees emanating from them have been accredited, what are the main objectives of that strategic plan?

The main objectives are to develop the legislative framework and the institutional performance of the meteorological facilities in the GCC countries, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the cooperation system and joint work to ensure the provision of data and meteorological services of the highest quality and accuracy, the joint interconnection of infrastructure between the GCC countries which include the linking of monitoring stations and weather radars through the application of quality systems and utilization of WMO and ICAO programs, as well as improving early warning systems for weather to protect lives and property, to reduce the destructive effects of extreme weather events, and to cooperate in building and developing capacities and scientific research.

The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has made great efforts in developing the GCC countries' relations with international organizations in the field of the environment. What are the results of these efforts?

The Secretariat has made efforts to assist the GCC States to join environmental conventions such as the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Basel Convention on the Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Prior Informed Consent to Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC), the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of High Importance (Ramsar), As all GCC countries joined these agreements and worked to implement their provisions to promote all environmental levels

A Pilot Solar Project in Salalah Port

Salalah port launched the first successful solar-powered, environment-friendly, solar pilot project by installing solar panels on a car shade that is allocated to the operation building to be entirely operated by solar energy. The cells were connected directly to the grid with 30 kw in last November (2018). The project aims to preserve the environment and regulate the expenditure of electricity and provide the convenience for the employees. All of the building›s lighting are connected to the solar energy. The energy generated during the winter season is 6,148 kw/h. The savings in energy expenditure are expected to be achieved through this project.

Bio-friendly Biofuels from Mushrooms and Wood Residues

Russian scientists design a device that converts remains of woodworking, «sawdust» and other residues into coal-like fuels.

Another team received bio-fuel from mushrooms grown in Russian forests.

A team of experts from the Moscow Institute of Physics published a technical design for converting woodworking residues into coal-equivalent fuels. «The most important characteristic of this technology is that it is environmentally friendly,» said a research paper published by scientific journals in the field of energy. «Raw materials can be obtained from the remains of woodworking industries, such as the remains of saws and even the remnants of production in the furniture factories. This technical design also solves another problem related to the waste of production processes. The mechanism of this modern technique is somewhat similar to the processes in nature, in which coal is formed in the layers of the earth. In addition to using this technical design to produce solid fuel, it can also be used to acquire «high-value chemical compounds, such as Antidotes ketenes, alcohol and carboxylic acids,». The Russian experts expressed their conviction that «combining bio-energy and chemical industries is critical for Russia over the next decade.» In a related context, Russian scientists, from Moscow State University, have patented a device to convert fungus into industrial fuel.

Discovery of More Than 100 New Plants in 2018

Scientists from the Royal Botanic Gardens in London have discovered 100 new plants in 2018. Their list of most recently discovered plants includes a new species of insect-eating plants, exotic new species of orchid, in addition to new species of plants with effective medical properties not yet used. Professor Aye Lippi discovered an exceptional climbing plant on rocks near a waterfall in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and sent a sample to Kew Gardens where it was classified as a new plant species. The plant was named « Lebbie Grande Florifora» after the name of its discovery of Professor Aye Lebbie . «The plant has unique characteristics, unlike any other plant in that plant variety, and this made me immediately realized that I had encountered something very unique and exceptional,» Professor LBC said. «My name will be associated with this extraordinary plant forever.» The plant is classified as endangered. Scientists say the area where it was found there are a lot of mineral extraction is taking place, in addition to the hydropower project, which is likely to become extinct within a few years.

«Every plant on our planet is very important to our survival. If we do not plant and preserve the plants and allow them to extinct and disappear, the world will lose, so we are not aware of the value of these plants,» says Professor Lebbie .

Environmental Vocabulary

The Green Treasure

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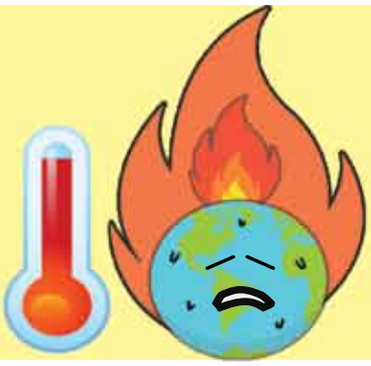
Famous for its benefits, known for its characteristics, known to many, and unknown to other people. Its name came from its fame, from its giving greatest its benefits. Strong roots, penetrating into the depths of the rocks, to drink its juice, and absorb its water and nectar. So they are green, bright, giant, drought-resistant, and acclimated with abundance and harsh days.

It grows in arid lands, found in the mountains, and on the banks of the valleys resists harsh conditions. It is prevalent in most Arab Countries and characterizes our Omani environment in its wild areas. It is very fast in growth, rising to approximately two meters in less than two months, and up to twelve meters in thirty-six months. Despite its height, few branches, and long life span, its wood is soft and flammable. Their leaves are needle tapes, falling after their growth is complete, and the leaves axis remains to add the tree more green and beauty. Flies Bee find a creamy table of beautiful flowers that appear during the months of March and April, while the fruits are mature during the months of May and June in the shape like a Longhorn. Each one contains a number of seeds in a row, and the seed is the size of the grain of pistachio.

This distinctive medical tree may no Omani house free from one of its products. Many may not know its shape or locations of its spread, but no doubt everyone knows what does Shoa Oil means, and what its importance, and how it is used, especially the oil extracted locally from its seeds. In addition, its countless medical benefits. Every part of it has a proven track record of various types of uses. It has been associated with some myths, anecdotes and proverbs, transmitted by generations through generations.

In our beautiful Omani environment, it spreads naturally without culturing, its seeds are scattered until they find proper environment and grow uninterrupted. On the other hand, other kind of species of its family in other Countries is cultivated, and extracted from a variety of medicines and drugs. This tree belongs to the Moringa family and is scientifically called «Moringa Pargerina» and the Moringa family contains fourteen species. In general, Moringa has had extensive international research and studies. The original Omani wild-Shoa tree «Moringa Pargerina» has been waiting for its natural pharmacy to be extracted, and its medical contents and scientific benefits be studied comprehensively. If we as researchers do not do so, who dose? and if we don›t hurry, we›ll pay the price. Omany Shoa «Moringa Pargerina» is the green treasure that we should preserve and explore its goodness and benefits.

Global Warming

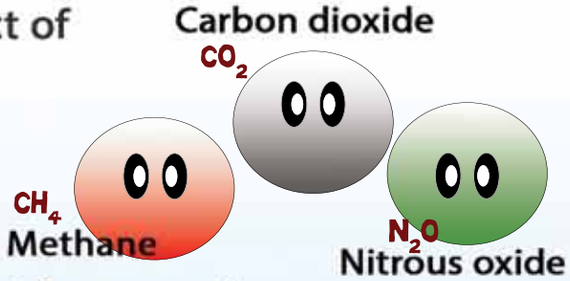


Prepared & Designed by: Marwa Al Mukhaini

Do you know that we are responsible for the effect of the Global warming?

We are called the

Greenhouse Gases



Our concentration in the atmosphere is increased for several reasons, among them:

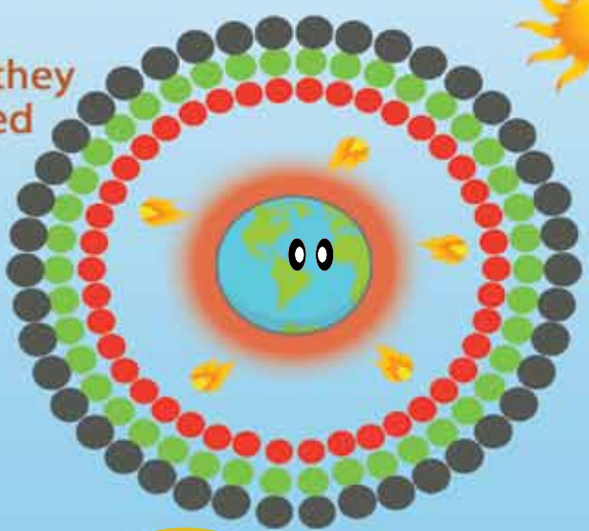
Waste & Gases of factories

Vehicle exhaust

Cutting & destruction of forest

The emetted gases absorb the sun's rays after they reflected from the earth's surface. The trapped gases increasing the atmosphiric temperature .This phenomenon is called

Global Warming



Global Warming causes many damages among them:

Increased melting of ice

Extinction of plants and animals species

Double the power of cyclones