1st International Forum on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Innovations

Business for Sustainable Development: Moving towards Circular Economy Business Models

✔️ April 8th, 2021  ✔️ 9:00 AM – 2:45 PM

Key Themes:

• UN Agenda 2030 - Sustainable Development Goals
• Circular Economy
• New Models for Energy Efficiency
• Educate for Sustainable Development: "Youth Sustainability Competition"

Overview:

In 2015, the United Nations launched the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda ratified by 197 Nations revolves around 17 Sustainable Goals (SDG’s) presented as a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity. The SDGs balance and integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development: the social, economic, and environmental. By ratifying this Agenda, Nations, including the UAE, pledged to work tirelessly for its full implementation by 2030. Moving away from the dominant linear "take-make-waste" economy towards a circular economy- “reduce, reuse, recycle”- has gained increasing prominence as a key solution to accelerate the 2030 Agenda implementation. Circular economy holds particular promise for achieving multiples SDGs by reconciling economic value creation with planetary boundaries.

The 1st International Forum on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Innovations seeks to bring together scholars, business leaders, and experts to discuss how businesses in the UAE can seize new opportunities and gain competitive advantage through circular economy solutions and how the circular economy can contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Goals. In the forum’s sideline, the five top runners’ teams of the "Youth Sustainability Competition" will showcase their projects, and a public vote will be conducted to select the winner.
Registration (online access)
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Speeches and event Overview
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Welcome speeches
• Prof. Hamid Al-Naimiy, Chancellor, University of Sharjah
• Prof. Sherif Sedky, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Sharjah
• Prof. Dima Jamali, Dean, College of Business Administration, University of Sharjah
• Dr. Narjes Haj-Salem, Assistant Professor, University of Sharjah

Keynote Address
10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
• Sheikh Fahim Al Qasimi, Executive Chairman, Department of Government Relations, and Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Sharjah
• Mr. Khaled Al Huraimel, Group Chief Executive Officer, Bee’ah

Panel Session 1: Strategic Perspectives on Sustainability
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Topics Discussed:
• Best Practices in Sustainability
• Engaging Future Generations in Sustainability
• Sustainability as a Business Imperative

Moderator:
• Prof. Dima Jamali, Dean, College of Business Administration, University of Sharjah.

Panel members:
• Mr. Hussein Wehbi, CEO, Fetchr
• Mr. Sunil Lalvani, Founder & CEO, Project Maji
• Mr. Ibrahim Al Zubi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Majid Al Futtaim Holding LLC
• Dr. Kamel Mellahi, Senior Manager - Centre for Responsible Business, Dubai Chamber

Youth Sustainability Competition Showcase & Opining of the Voting System
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Lunch Break
12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Panel Session 2: Circular Economy: From Utopia to Reality
12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Topics Discussed:
• Circular economy and circular business models
• How circular economy could contributes to achieving the sustainable development goals in the UAE
• Innovation challenges for circular business models

Moderator:
• Dr. Narjes Haj Salem, Assistant Professor, University of Sharjah
Panel Session 3: New Models for Energy Efficiency
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Topics Discussed:
- Energy efficiency
- Carbon footprint and decarbonization
- Renewable and hydrogen energy

Moderator:
- Dr. Chaouki Ghenai, Associate professor, College of Engineering, University of Sharjah
- Dr. Eyup Dogan, Associate Professor, College of Business Administration, University of Sharjah

Panel members:
- Dr. Daniel Balsalobre Lorente, Professor, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
- Eng. Mohamed El Husseini, Regional Sales Leader, Middle East, Turkey & Africa, Honeywell
- Dr. Sgouris Sgouridis, Director Research Programs, DEWA
- Prof. Dima Jamali, Dean, College of Business Administration, University of Sharjah

Announcement of the Top Winners of Youth Sustainability Competition
2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Bee'ah representative
- CoBA representative

Concluding Remarks
2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

- Prof. Dima Jamali, Dean, College of Business Administration, University of Sharjah