

## UAE Ministerial decree # 567 (2014) “Regulating the installation management and operation of quarries and crushers ”

A coordination meeting was organized on Feb 04, 2015, by EPDA-RAK between MoEW and Crushers/ Quarries Management to discuss the concerns regarding Ministerial decree # 567 (2014) “Environmental Guidelines for Crushers & Quarries. Dr. Saif M. Al Ghais, ED EPDA thanked the participants and appreciated their cooperation for the implementation of the decree and emphasised that the decree was issued in order to protect the environment and residents living in surrounding areas by working with the competent authorities and is in line with the ministry’s framework to develop legislations and regulations that comply with the environmental

federal legislations to ensure environmental sustainability. Dr. Saif M. Al Ghais said that this regulation applies to crushers, quarries, cement plants, ceramic tiles, marble factories, other relevant industries and construction projects that include rock excavation and quarrying. The EPDA have told quarries in the RAK emirate to improve their sites in accordance with a ministerial decision issued in August 2014, during a meeting with the representatives of MoEW and Quarries Management. Dr. Al Ghais, said the decision aims



to reduce emissions from quarries. They have been told to increase green areas and forestation around quarries and sprinkle water on stone-milling sites. They must also reduce the number of vehicles used on-site by fitting conveyor belts. He stressed that they required all quarries to install air monitoring stations that will be linked to a control station at the authority. Two quarries were closed down in RAK for breaching environmental regulations in 2014.

## EPDA organizes 3rd International Conference on Global Warming



EPDA announced its plans and preparations of organizing the 3rd International Conference on Global Warming and its impacts on Food Security during the period from 5 - 7 May 2015, with participation of International scientists and elites speakers from FAO, American Universities, Universities of GCC countries and a number of local universities. Dr. Saif Al Ghais the executive directors of EPDA declared during the press conference that the conference will address the phenomena of Global Warming important characteristics and impacts on food security, through 4 main themes having 24 scientific research papers, distributed as 8 papers per day. Furthermore, Dr. Al Ghais added "the conference themes will discuss the impacts of global warming on fishery, coral reef destruction, fish and other marine biology life cycle, methods of sustainable agricultural production, local and global food security, organic products, food pollution, diseases that infect agricultural soils, plants and animals.

[www.gwrak.com](http://www.gwrak.com)

## Air Quality Monitoring in RAK

**Ambient Air:** As per the EPDA Strategy for the air quality monitoring stations in the Emirate, EPDA has installed one Ambient air monitoring station in Al Hamra Industrial Park for measuring Particulates, Oxides of Carbon, Nitrogen and Sulfur, Ammonia, Ozone and Volatile Organic Carbons. **Indoor Air:** As part of the strategy EPDA also started monitoring indoor air quality for health impact assessment in RAK Govt Offices/Buildings” Dr Saif Al Ghais Executive Director stated that the monitoring of Indoor air quality in RAK Govt Offices/Buildings will evaluate human exposure to air pollution that may result in a variety of health effects, depending on the types of pollutants, the magnitude, duration and frequency of exposure and the associated toxicity of the pollutants of concern. It is important to assess the exposure levels of the employees. Health impact assessment will combine estimates of exposure with information on toxicity or the relationship between exposure and response.

# Environmental Event

18<sup>th</sup> National Environment Day 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015

Theme: The Green Economy: Innovation and Sustainability

Dr. Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahad, Minister of ENVIRONMENT and Water, confirmed that the strong commitment and continuous support of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Supreme Council Members, Their Highnesses Rulers of the Emirates, in preserving and developing the ENVIRONMENT, have had a deep impact on the preservation of the environment as seen today across the public and private sectors; also on maximizing the value of the environmental dimension within all our developmental plans and further improving our global position. In a statement on occasion of the 18th National Environment Day, Bin Fahad expressed his deepest thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa for sponsoring this occasion which falls today (4th of Feb 2015) under the theme 'The Green Economy: Innovation and Sustainability'. Bin Fahad added that the UAE National Environment Day is an important national occasion to recall the environmental monuments of the environment and development man, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE; a man who inspired us by his inimitable vision towards building a prosperous and sustainable future for present and future generations. Dr. Saif M. Al Ghais, The Executive Director, EPDA-RAK expressed on the UAE National ENVIRONMENT Day, which falls every February 4th, is an important annual celebration aimed at expressing the national and moral commitment to conserve the resources and ecosystem. Through the celebration of the UAE National ENVIRONMENT Day, we are able to demonstrate our determination to continuously step up our efforts to protect our ENVIRONMENT and achieve our sustainable development goals. These objectives represent the essence of UAE 2021 Vision. In addition, we seek to demonstrate our close relationship with our surroundings given that "environmental protection" is an important part of EPDA's objectives and a key aspect of our daily lives." Dr. Saif Al Ghais expressed that EPDA has already initiated "One Million One Trees Planting Program" in Ras Al Khaimah by providing the saplings of Ghaf and other indigenous species for "Tree Planting Program", distributed more than 1000 saplings in January 2015 to further cement its commitment to environmental protection and sustainability in RAK, UAE.

Source: [www.wam.ae](http://www.wam.ae)



## Cloud Seeding

A Weather Modification technique involving the injection of a substance into a cloud for the purpose of influencing the cloud's subsequent development. Ordinarily, this refers to the injection of a nucleating agent, which creates a nucleus around which precipitation will form. In common practice, cloud seeding involves the aerial release of silver iodide particles into convective clouds to create thunderstorms. temperature inversion.

Source: [www.ecologydictionary.org](http://www.ecologydictionary.org)

## How to be an environment friend?

1. Do not use screen savers: If you are going out of office for long time. Put off the computer
2. Turn of the Lights: Try to use sun light as much as possible. Put off the lights when leaving the office.
3. Do not use plastic/paper cups: Use ceramic coffee cup or glass.
4. Think carefully before printing: send files on line to your colleagues can save lot of papers, ultimately conserving energy and natural resources.
5. Adopt technology: Reading hard copies of newspapers and magazines has become out of date. Read on line

## UAE Marked World Wetlands Day

The UAE joined the international community in observing the World Wetlands Day on Monday Feb 02, 2015. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The World Wetlands Day 2015 is being held under the theme "Wetlands for Our Future – Join us". Four UAE wetlands in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Fujairah, have been designated as sites of international importance by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention), an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. UAE National Protected Areas:

1. Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. 29/08/2007; Emirate of Dubai; 620 ha
2. Wadi Wurayah National Park. 07/10/2010; Emirate of Fujairah;
3. Mangrove and Alhafeya Protected Area in Khor Kalba. 10/03/2013; Emirate of Sharjah;
4. Al Wathba Wetland Reserve. 25/04/2013; Emirates of Abu Dhabi;

Source: [www.khaleejtimes.com](http://www.khaleejtimes.com)

## EPDA Guidelines for Car Wash Stations in RAK



Environment Protection and Development Authority has issued its new guidelines for the Car Wash Station in RAK to improve the environmental situation. Dr. Al Ghais, The Executive Director, said that the importance of the guidelines is to protect the local environment, to maintain hygiene, conserve the natural resources and improve the aesthetic appearance and cultural conditions in the Emirate. The existing Car Wash stations, owners, management has been informed to start implementing the new guidelines within 6 months, while issuing approval to new Car Wash stations has already been started from Jan. 01, 2015 according to the New Guidelines.

## Million And One Tree Initiative

According to its strategic policy for the environmental protection, sustainable management of biodiversity, creating environmental awareness and access of community for environmental responsible activities, EPDA has launched the “Million and One Tree Initiative” in 2014. The main objective of this initiative is to proceed towards the “Green Ras Al Khaimah Emirate” by creating environmental awareness by distributing the indigenous saplings of Al Ghaf, Sidr and Samer Trees. These saplings will be distributed to Local, Federal Government departments, institutions and campuses of schools, colleges, universities, industries, individuals and all sectors of society, of Ras Al Khaimah. EPDA in cooperation of all stakeholders will also follow up for its maintenance and proper growth.

## UAE MoEW issued lists of banned pesticides

The Ministry of Environment and Water, has issued a decree updating a list of pesticides that are banned or restricted. The list includes 359 pesticides that have been evaluated based on European standards, and the criteria issued by international organizations, as well as methods of their use, degree of severity and toxicity to humans and animals, and harmful impact on the environment. The pesticides have been placed in three categories. The first lists prohibited pesticides, the second, restricted pesticides, and the third, severely restricted pesticides. EPDA-RAK has distributed the list to all concerned in RAK.

## Waste Recycling

Environment Protection and Development Authority has organized a workshop on “Waste Recycling” for school students in the Emirates of RAK, on the occasion of “National Environment Day” on February 02, 2015. The workshop aimed at to raise the awareness and developing a recycling culture. A film was shown on the occasion, displaying the physical and environmental perspective of recycling and showing benefits of saving energy and conserving the natural resources. The students were also given with some tips: Recycling: Begin with everyday items such as aluminium cans and plastic bottles. Don't throw away cans and bottles. Put them in the recycling containers. Recycle Paper: We waste enormous amounts of paper in our homes, schools and business suggested to keep a container for sheets of waste paper for recycling and encouraged the students to use both sides of a sheet of paper.





## Basel Convention

The convention was signed by 51 countries in the March 22, 1989 in the Basel in Switzerland .the Basel Convention, is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries (LDCs). It does not, however, address the movement of radioactive waste. The Convention is also intended to minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes generated, to ensure their environmentally sound management as closely as possible to the source of generation, and to assist LDCs in environmentally sound management of the hazardous and other wastes they generate.

## University activities

The College of Food and Agriculture at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) organized the Food and Agriculture Festival 2015 under the slogan 'Our Agriculture, Health and Civilization', from the 23rd to 25th of February. Professor Ghaleb Alhadrami, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, stated that the festival was part of an educational awareness campaign aimed at every age group whether secondary school students, families, farmers or fishermen. He added that the festival focused on raising awareness of the foundations of agriculture, animal husbandry, health, food safety, human nutrition, food security, agricultural management and veterinary medicine.

## Environmental Legislation

Article 3, UAE Law #24 (1999) for PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Agency, in consultation with the competent authorities and concerned parties shall set the standards, specifications, principles and regulations for the assessment of environmental impact of projects and establishments applying for license and shall specially undertake the following:

1. Identification of categories of projects, which due to their nature may cause harm to the environment.
2. Identification of areas and sites of special environmental importance or sensitivity such as historical and archaeological sites, wet lands, coral reefs, natural reservations and public parks.
3. Identification of natural resources and major environmental problems of special importance.

