



جامعة أبوظبي
Abu Dhabi University



UI GreenMetric
Advancing Sustainability for Earth

Abu Dhabi University in collaboration with UI GreenMetric is organizing

The 2nd International Sustainability Leaders Meeting (ISLM 2027)

Theme:

From Commitment to Measurable Impact: Leading Sustainable Universities in the AI Era – Universities Accelerating Climate Action, Digital Transformation, and Global Collaboration



15 January 2027



Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

The event will also be broadcast online

Know More



Background and Program Overview

The 1st International Sustainability Leaders Meeting (ISLM 2025), organized by UI GreenMetric and Abu Dhabi University, gathered global sustainability leaders and experts to discuss the most pressing sustainability challenges in higher education. The inaugural edition focused on institutional experiences, sustainability offices, implementation challenges, knowledge sharing, and best practices for integrating sustainability across universities worldwide.

Building upon the success of ISLM 2025, the 2nd International Sustainability Leaders Meeting (ISLM 2027) advances the conversation from sharing institutional experiences toward measuring, scaling, and accelerating sustainability impact. The meeting will focus on how universities can translate sustainability commitments into measurable actions through climate leadership, artificial intelligence (AI) and data-driven solutions, campus transformation, student engagement, sustainability rankings, and global partnerships.

As universities navigate rapid advances in artificial intelligence, climate change, digital transformation, and evolving societal expectations, institutional leaders are challenged to embed sustainability across governance, operations, education, research, and international collaboration.

Building upon the ongoing commitment of UI GreenMetric and Abu Dhabi University to advancing the global sustainability agenda, ISLM 2027 will serve as a high-level forum bringing together university presidents, rectors, vice chancellors, sustainability leaders, sustainability offices, policymakers, industry representatives, ranking experts, researchers, student voices, and international organizations to exchange strategic insights and develop collaborative actions for accelerating sustainable higher education.

Hosted by Abu Dhabi University, the meeting will provide a focused platform for dialogue on climate action, sustainable campus operations, AI-enabled sustainability monitoring, institutional governance, rankings, regional collaboration, and partnerships for implementation.



Program Objectives

- Showcase how universities are turning sustainability commitments into measurable outcomes.
- Strengthen the role of higher education institutions as climate & environment action leaders and living laboratories for sustainable transformation.
- Explore how AI, data, rankings, and digital tools can support sustainability performance and institutional decision-making.
- Promote collaboration among universities, governments, industry, and international networks to scale sustainability solutions.
- Highlight the role of students, faculty, and sustainability offices in embedding sustainability across operations, education, research, and community engagement.
- Develop shared priorities and practical recommendations for universities to advance sustainability by 2030.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Alignment

ISLM 2027 is designed to foster discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaborative initiatives aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting will particularly focus on the SDGs identified as core values of ISLM 2027, while remaining open to broader sustainability goals and related initiatives: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

This SDG synergy presents a strategic pathway for universities to accelerate sustainable transformation. The pathway begins with Quality Education (SDG 4) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) as the foundation for knowledge creation, capacity building, and collaboration. This foundation is translated into institutional actions through Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), promoting sustainable campus development, innovation, and responsible practices. Ultimately, these initiatives converge toward Climate Action (SDG 13), positioning universities as key actors in advancing climate resilience through the pathway of knowledge and collaboration - institutional transformation - measurable climate impact.



Figure 1. Synergy of 7 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in ISLM 2027

Expected Outcome

ISLM 2027 is positioned as a high-level strategic forum that brings together university leaders, sustainability experts, and global partners to shape the future direction of sustainable university transformation. Unlike regular UI GreenMetric activities that focus on benchmarking, assessment, and knowledge exchange, ISLM 2027 emphasizes leadership dialogue, strategic alignment, and collective commitment to accelerating sustainability action in higher education. The expected deliverables of the meeting include:

- Policy Brief featuring an executive summary, a shared understanding of global sustainability challenges, and strategic recommendations derived from ISLM 2027, highlighting the forum's role in advancing sustainable university transformation.
- Leadership Statement as a platform to capture and highlight planned collaborations and sustainability commitments emerging from ISLM 2027, including bilateral, multilateral, and other forms of partnerships among UI GreenMetric member universities, institutions, and stakeholders in areas such as AI, climate action, and sustainability innovation.



Keynote Speech

Abu Dhabi as a Sustainable City

Overview:

This session will delve into Abu Dhabi's journey towards becoming a sustainable city, highlighting its pioneering initiatives in renewable energy, urban development, and resource efficiency. It will showcase Abu Dhabi's commitment to reducing carbon emissions while addressing the challenges of rapid urbanization and balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.

SDG Alignment:



Objectives:

This session aims to showcase the innovative strategies that have made Abu Dhabi a global leader in urban sustainability and inspire other cities to implement similar solutions to achieve the SDGs.



H.E. Eng. Abdulla Mohammed Al Remeithi

Executive Director, Integrated Environmental Policy and Planning Sector, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)



Presentation

Abu Dhabi University's Strategic Framework for Sustainability and Global Visibility, Powered by an AI-Driven System

Overview:

This presentation will highlight Abu Dhabi University's strategic framework for embedding sustainability across education, research, operations, governance, partnerships, and global engagement. It will also demonstrate how an AI-driven system supports SDG mapping, performance monitoring, evidence-based decision-making, and international visibility.

SDG Alignment:



Objectives:

- Showcase ADU's integrated sustainability framework.
- Explain how AI supports performance tracking and SDG alignment.
- Highlight the role of data, partnerships, and innovation in strengthening global visibility.
- Share practical approaches for measurable institutional impact.



Prof. Sherine Farouk

*Assistant Chancellor for Global Partnerships and Impact,
Abu Dhabi University*



Sessions and Panel Themes

Session 1: High-Level Leadership Forum

Theme: "Leading Sustainable Universities in the AI Era: From Vision to Measurable Impact"

Overview:

This high-level leadership forum will bring together university presidents, rectors, and global higher education leaders to explore the evolving role of universities as drivers of sustainable transformation. The session will examine how institutional leaders can integrate sustainability into university governance, strategy, education, research, operations, and global partnerships. It will also highlight the role of artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and data-driven decision-making in strengthening institutional performance and delivering measurable sustainability impact.

Discussions will address emerging challenges and opportunities for sustainable universities as they work toward the global development priorities of 2030.

SDG Alignment:



Objectives:

To provide a strategic platform for higher education leaders to exchange perspectives, share effective institutional practices, and identify actionable approaches for embedding sustainability and AI-driven innovation into university leadership and governance.

The session aims to encourage measurable institutional impact, strengthen global collaboration, and support universities in advancing sustainable development priorities toward 2030.



Session 2: Leadership Panel Discussion

Theme: "From Commitment to Measurable Impact: Collaborative Solutions for Sustainable Universities"

Overview:

This multi-stakeholder leadership panel will bring together university leaders and sustainability experts from different regions to discuss practical approaches for transforming sustainability commitments into measurable institutional outcomes.

Drawing on international university experiences, the session will explore how institutions can strengthen sustainability governance, apply AI and digital technologies, advance climate action, integrate sustainability into education and research, and build effective global partnerships. The discussion will highlight collaborative solutions, successful practices, and measurable approaches that universities can adopt to accelerate institutional transformation and sustainable impact.

SDG Alignment:



Objectives:

To identify practical, collaborative, and measurable solutions that enable universities to translate sustainability commitments into tangible institutional results.

The session aims to promote knowledge exchange among university leaders and sustainability experts, showcase effective international practices, and strengthen cooperation in governance, education, research, climate action, AI-enabled sustainability, and global partnerships.



Panelist 1: Governance & Digitalization

Session Format: Leadership panel discussion on institutional governance and digital transformation.

Overview:

Discusses how universities can develop effective governance frameworks and utilize digital transformation to accelerate sustainability performance and institutional accountability.

- Sustainability governance structures
- Digital transformation strategies
- Institutional sustainability policies
- Data management and reporting systems
- Executive leadership commitment
- Measuring institutional sustainability performance

SDG Alignment:



Panelist 2: AI & Smart Campus

Session Format: Expert panel discussion on emerging technologies and sustainable campus innovation.

Overview:

Explores how artificial intelligence, smart technologies, and digital solutions can support universities in monitoring, managing, and improving sustainability performance.

- AI applications for sustainability management
- Smart campus development
- Sustainability data analytics
- Digital monitoring platforms and dashboards
- Responsible technology implementation
- Innovation for future-ready universities

SDG Alignment:



Panelist 3: Climate Action & Net Zero Campus

Session Format: University case study panel on climate strategies and campus transformation.

Overview:

Examines how universities are implementing climate action strategies and transitioning toward low-carbon and net-zero campuses through operational improvements and innovative solutions.

- Carbon reduction strategies
- Renewable energy implementation
- Green buildings and infrastructure
- Energy and resource efficiency
- Waste and water management
- Net-zero campus pathways

SDG Alignment:



Panelist 4: Education, Research & Living Laboratory

Session Format: Academic leadership panel focusing on sustainability integration in education and research.

Overview:

Discusses how universities can embed sustainability into curricula, research agendas, and campus environments while utilizing campuses as living laboratories for innovation and societal impact.

- Sustainability education and curriculum development
- Research-driven sustainability solutions
- Student engagement and participation
- Campus as a living laboratory
- Community impact and knowledge transfer

SDG Alignment:



Panelist 5: Partnerships & Global Collaboration

Session Format: International partnership forum involving universities, networks, governments, and external stakeholders.

Overview:

Explores how strategic partnerships and international collaboration can accelerate sustainability initiatives beyond institutional boundaries and strengthen collective action among universities worldwide.

- International university networks
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Industry and government partnerships
- Regional sustainability initiatives
- UI GreenMetric global collaboration
- Scaling sustainability impact through partnerships

SDG Alignment:



Closing Notes: Leadership Commitment Toward Sustainable Universities 2030

Overview:

This moderated closing session will summarize the key insights and recommendations emerging from ISLM 2027. It will identify shared leadership commitments, institutional priorities, measurable sustainability outcomes, and opportunities for future collaboration to accelerate sustainable transformation across higher education.

The session will also highlight the proposed Abu Dhabi Leadership Statement on Sustainable Universities, reflecting the collective vision and commitments of participating institutions toward 2030.

SDG Alignment:



Objectives:

To consolidate the outcomes of ISLM 2027 and define shared priorities, practical institutional actions, measurable commitments, and collaborative initiatives that support universities in advancing sustainability, climate action, innovation, and global partnerships toward 2030.



Program – Overview

- Time Zone: All sessions are scheduled based on the local time of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Gulf Standard Time, GMT+4).
- The program features two main leadership sessions: the High-Level Leadership Forum and the Leadership Panel Discussion, bringing together university leaders to exchange insights and best practices on sustainability and innovation in higher education.
- Discussion topics for Session 1 include, but are not limited to: Future of University Leadership, AI for Higher Education, Governance and Digital Transformation, Sustainability Strategy, Climate Leadership, Global Partnerships, and Future Challenges.
- The program concludes with a Sustainability Campus Tour at Abu Dhabi University, providing participants with firsthand exposure to the University's sustainable campus initiatives and best practices.

Full Agenda – 15 January 2027

08.00 -
09.30 **Registration & Networking Coffee**

09.30 -
09.40 **Opening Remarks**



Prof. Ghassan Aouad
Chancellor,
Abu Dhabi University



Dr. Vishnu Juwono
S.E., M.I.A. – Chairperson of
UI GreenMetric

09.40 -
09.50 **Keynote Speech: Abu Dhabi as a Sustainable City**



H.E. Eng. Abdulla Mohammed Al Remeithi
Executive Director, Integrated
Environmental Policy and Planning Sector,
Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)

09.50 -
10.00 **Presentation – Abu Dhabi University's Strategic Framework for Sustainability and Global Visibility, Powered by an AI-Driven System**



Prof. Sherine Farouk
Assistant Chancellor for Global
Partnerships and Impact,
Abu Dhabi University

10.00 – **Session 1: High-Level Leadership Forum**
 11.00 “Leading Sustainable Universities in the AI Era: From Vision to Measurable Impact”

Moderator:



Prof. Sherine Farouk
 Assistant Chancellor for Global
 Partnerships and Impact,
 Abu Dhabi University



**Prof. Dr. Mohammed
 Fahad Al Sharekh***
 President of Qassim University



**Prof. Dr. Hasan
 Mandal***
 Rector of Istanbul Technical
 University



Prof. John O'Halloran*
 President of University College
 Cork



Dr. Rolando Rachid*
 Rector of Universidad de La
 Sabana



**Prof. Puleng
 LenkaBula***
 Vice-Chancellor of University of
 South Africa

11.00 – **Session 2: Leadership Panel Discussion**
 12.30 “From Commitment to Measurable Impact: Collaborative Solutions for Sustainable Universities”

Moderator:



Dr. Abellia Wardani
 Vice-Chairperson of UI
 GreenMetric



**Prof. Dr. Ir. Heri
 Hermansyah, S.T.,
 M.Eng., IPU***
 Rector of Universitas Indonesia



**Prof. Dato' Dr.
 Ahmad Farhan Mohd
 Sadullah***
 Vice Chancellor of Universiti
 Putra Malaysia



Prof. Dr. László Rovó*
 Rector of University of Szeged



**Prof. dr. C.
 (Carolien) Kroeze***
 Rector of Wageningen
 University & Research



**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Chin-
 Lung Chang***
 President of National Pingtung
 University of Science and
 Technology

12.30 – **Leadership Dialogue with Participants**
 13.00

13.00 – **Coffee Break / Jummah Prayer**
 14.00

14.00 – **Networking Lunch**
 15.00

15.00 – **Closing Notes: Leadership Commitment Toward Sustainable Universities 2030**
 15.10

15.10 – **Vote of Thanks and Appreciation**
 15.20

15.20 – **Closing Ceremony & Group Photo**
 15.30

15.30 – **Sustainability Campus Tour**
 17.00

* To be confirmed

About ICASF 2027

The International Sustainability Leaders Meeting (ISLM 2027) will be held alongside the **4th International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures (ICASF 2027)**, organized by **Abu Dhabi University** under the patronage of **H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan**, *Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence*.

ISLM 2027 participants are welcome to attend and engage in ICASF 2027 sessions and activities across both conference days.

Conference Theme: **“Reimagining the Future: Technology, Innovation, and Interdisciplinary Solutions for Global Impact”**

Conference Details

Dates: **13–14 January 2027**

Venue: **Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

Participation Format: **Physical attendance and virtual research presentations**

ICASF 2027 brings together academics, researchers, policymakers, industry experts, practitioners, and innovators from around the world to explore how emerging technologies—including artificial intelligence, digital transformation, biotechnology, and sustainable engineering—can be harnessed to build resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies.

Through keynote addresses, high-level panel discussions, research presentations, and interdisciplinary networking opportunities, the conference promotes dialogue on cutting-edge research, technological breakthroughs, institutional practices, and policy innovations that contribute to sustainable development.

ICASF 2027 is aligned with the **United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and encourages interdisciplinary research and collaboration addressing today’s most pressing global challenges.

Conference Tracks

1. Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Digital Transformation
2. Advanced Engineering and Emerging Technologies
3. Sustainable Cities and Urban Development
4. Climate Action, Sustainable Energy, and Resilient Communities
5. Business, Innovation, and Sustainable Entrepreneurship
6. Economics, Finance, and Global Development
7. Legal and Ethical Governance of Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Innovation
8. Education, Skills, and Future Learning
9. Health, Biotechnology, and Well-being
10. Society, Culture, Gender Politics, and Inclusive Development

About ICASF 2027

Call for Papers

Academics, researchers, practitioners, professionals, and research students are invited to submit their work to ICASF 2027.

The conference welcomes the following submission categories:

- Working Papers
- Full Papers, subject to double-blind peer review
- Doctoral Colloquium Papers

Virtual presentation opportunities are available for authors who are unable to attend the conference physically.

Submit your paper through the ICASF 2027 Submission Portal:

<https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/ICASF2027/Submission/Index>

ICASF 2027 Key Dates

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **30 August 2026**
- Abstract Acceptance Notification: **01 September 2026**
- Conference Registration Deadline: **15 September 2026**
- Conference Dates: **13–14 January 2027**

Registration Options and Fees

Participants may select one of the following registration options:

1. Participation in ICASF 2027 and ISLM 2027. Dates: 13–15 January 2027

This registration includes participation in **ICASF 2027** on 13–14 January 2027 and **ISLM 2027** on 15 January 2027.

Full Registration Fee: USD 450. However, Participants who join Abu Dhabi University's **Global Engagement Program (GEP)** will receive a **20% fee waiver**, reducing the registration fee to **USD 350**.

To receive the discounted GEP registration fee, please complete the following steps:

Step 1: Join Abu Dhabi University's Global Engagement Program

Complete the GEP registration form: <https://gep.adu.ac.ae/gepform>

Learn more about the Global Engagement Program: <https://gep.adu.ac.ae/>

Step 2: Register for ICASF 2027 and ISLM 2027

Complete the conference registration form: <https://eforms.adu.ac.ae/icasf/>

Under **Registration Type**, please select: **Global Engagement Program (GEP) Delegates**

Please ensure that you complete the GEP registration form before selecting the GEP Delegates category.

Important Dates:

- ISLM 2027 Date: **15 January 2027**
- Venue: **Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi, UAE**
- ICASF 2027 Conference Dates: **13 – 14 January 2027**
- Abstract Submission Deadline (ICASF 2027): **30 August 2026**
- ISLM Registration Deadline: **15 September 2026**
- ISLM-only Participation Fee (no paper): **USD 200**
- ISLM + ICASF 2027 Registration Fee (with GEP waiver): **USD 350**
- Registration link: **<https://eforms.adu.ac.ae/icasf/>**

Why Attend ISLM 2027?

- Gain insights from global university leaders and sustainability experts.
- Explore practical strategies for measurable sustainability impact.
- Learn how AI, digital tools, and smart-campus solutions can support institutional transformation.
- Exchange best practices on climate action, net-zero campuses, education, research, and governance.
- Build partnerships with universities, governments, industry, and international networks.
- Contribute to shared recommendations and commitments for sustainable universities by 2030.
- Attend selected ICASF 2027 sessions and join the Abu Dhabi University Sustainability Campus Tour.

CONTACT US:

For more information, please contact:

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sakshi.sharma@adu.ac.ae

**JOIN US IN SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND BEYOND!**

The Destination

Abu Dhabi is the capital city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), situated along the Arabian Gulf's tranquil shores. The city is known for its blend of innovative urban development and rich cultural heritage, making it an ideal backdrop for a conference centered on pioneering sustainable and innovative futures.

The weather in January in Abu Dhabi is pleasantly warm, with temperatures ranging from 18 to 26°C, providing a comfortable climate for exploring the city's attractions and enjoying outdoor dining by the Gulf. This hospitable environment and Abu Dhabi's visionary advancements resonate with the conference's goal of fostering a sustainable and digitally transformative future. For more insights into what Abu Dhabi has to offer, go to <https://www.visitabudhabi.com/en/>



Transportation and Accommodation

Delegates arriving at Abu Dhabi or Dubai International Airport may travel to the conference venue, Abu Dhabi University, UAE, by taxi, rideshare service, bus, or other available transportation options.

For the convenience of ICASF 2027 and ISLM participants, we have provided below a selection of hotels offering special discounted rates. Delegates seeking alternative accommodation in Abu Dhabi or Dubai may explore additional options through Booking.com.

Recommended Hotel Options Near the Conference Venue

Traders Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri, Abu Dhabi



Traders Hotel offers comfortable accommodation, modern facilities, and a convenient location within the Qaryat Al Beri complex, with easy access to key Abu Dhabi landmarks and Abu Dhabi University. For special ICASF 2027 rates and bookings, please contact: reservations.thad@tradershotels.com

Participants are kindly requested to mention “*Abu Dhabi University (ICASF 2027)*” in both the subject line and body of the email when contacting the hotel for booking assistance. Kindly note that bookings are subject to availability and will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fairmont Bab Al Bahr, Abu Dhabi



Fairmont Bab Al Bahr offers elegant beachfront accommodation, premium facilities, and a convenient location in Abu Dhabi, with easy access to key city landmarks and Abu Dhabi University. The hotel provides a comfortable stay for ICASF 2027 participants, with dedicated booking support available.

For special ICASF 2027 rates and bookings, please contact: Najat Boussil, Email: najat.boussil@fairmont.com Mobile: +971569961689. Participants are kindly requested to mention “*Abu Dhabi University (ICASF 2027)*” in both the subject line and body of the email when contacting the hotel for booking assistance. Kindly note that bookings are subject to availability and will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Recommended Hotel Options Inside Abu Dhabi City

Oryx Hotel, Abu Dhabi



Oryx Hotel offers comfortable accommodation and convenient facilities for ICASF 2027 participants, with easy access to Abu Dhabi University and key city landmarks. For special ICASF 2027 rates and bookings, participants are kindly requested to send their reservation request to reservation@oryxhotel.ae using the booking code below:

Booking code: **ORYICASFEDU2027**

Rate applies to: **King rooms only**

Participants are kindly requested to mention "Abu Dhabi University (ICASF 2027)" and the booking code **ORYICASFEDU2027** in both the subject line and body of the email when contacting the hotel for booking assistance. Kindly note that bookings are subject to availability and will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other Recommended Hotel Options

<u>Howard Johnson Hotel - 3 Star</u> (Near Al Maria Mall, Khalifa Street)	<u>Hawthorn Suites - 4 Star</u> (Next to Corniche Hospital, Corniche)	<u>TRYP Hotel - 4 Star</u> (Near Al Maria Mall, Khalifa Street)
<u>Ramada Hotel - Corniche - 4 Star</u> (Meena Road, Corniche)	<u>Ramada Downtown Hotel - 4 Star</u> (Opp. Abu Dhabi Mall, Navy Gate Area)	<u>La Quinta Abu Dhabi Al Wahda Mall - 4 Star</u> (Beside Al Wahda Mall)

Hotel Contact Information for Reservation:

Please reach out to Mr. Akhlaq Ahmed Malik, Multi-Property Sales Manager, for the room reservations. He is available 24/7 via the following:

Phone Number: **+971 543 054 744**

Email: **salesm@gromaxx.ae**

When contacting Mr. Akhlaq, please mention the event name: Abu Dhabi University - ICASF 2027. Once you confirm your room type, Mr. Akhlaq will send you a discounted payment link to complete your reservation.





ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY



جامعة أبوظبي

20 YEARS
SHAPING THE FUTURE

20 YEARS

Abu Dhabi University
20 YEARS
OF SHAPING
THE FUTURE
في صناعة المستقبل

تحتفي باجتماعنا خلال عشرين عاماً
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS

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