

With Distinguished International Participation

Nahyan bin Mubarak Inaugurates The 3rd International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures (ICASF 2025) at Abu Dhabi University

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10 December: His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Abu Dhabi University, today inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures (ICASF 2025), organized by Abu Dhabi University in collaboration with the International Observatory for University Rankings and Academic Excellence. The event is held at Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental in Abu Dhabi.

The conference is convened under the theme “Shaping the Future: Integrating Nature, Technology, and Society,” and highlights the role of innovation in supporting sustainability and enhancing quality of life. ICASF 2025 concludes tomorrow, Thursday, with more than 75 experts participating to discuss advanced technologies—from artificial intelligence to renewable energy—and their role in supporting sustainable development, promoting inclusion, and building societies capable of adapting to global changes.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak said in his opening speech at the conference: “I welcome you to Abu Dhabi and to the United Arab Emirates. I am pleased to inaugurate this third edition of the International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures.”

His Excellency noted that the presence of this diverse group of thinkers, scientists, and innovators is a source of inspiration and pride, pointing to the remarkable international participation from leading universities, institutions, and scientific centers around the world. He added that the efforts of the participants represent a valuable contribution to improving human life and advancing a prosperous and sustainable future for humanity.

His Excellency further explained that the conference theme — “Shaping the Future: Integrating Nature, Technology, and Society” — reflects the UAE’s deep-rooted vision of sustainability, affirming that since its founding in 1971 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, the nation has followed a path that prioritizes human development and the quality of life. He noted that His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may God protect him, is guiding the nation today toward advanced levels of social and economic well-being.

His Excellency stressed that under its wise leadership, the UAE has become a global pioneer in nature conservation, educational advancement, scientific research, and technological innovation. He emphasized that the President of the UAE consistently underscores the need to view the world as an integrated system in which nature, technology, and society work in harmony. Knowledge, innovation, education, research, and environmental protection, he added, represent key pillars of the nation’s progress.

He explained that the conference topics are broad and complex, requiring creativity and global cooperation. He affirmed that the scientific discussions held during the event will contribute significantly to building a sustainable future. His Excellency then outlined four main areas of focus for the conference sessions:

First: Ensuring high quality in the work of universities and colleges.

His Excellency stated that the sessions dedicated to university rankings and academic excellence offer important opportunities to raise standards, enhance global partnerships, and enable universities to better serve their students and communities.

Second: Promoting environmental sustainability.

He added that achieving a sustainable society requires effective resource management, environmental protection, improved social services, balanced urban planning, smart infrastructure, renewable energy, cultural identity, and preservation of heritage. He emphasized that future economic development depends on achieving genuine sustainability.

Third: The role of science and technology in improving quality of life.

His Excellency highlighted that the UAE has shaped much of its modern identity in the digital era and has become a global leader in artificial intelligence and a hub for innovation and innovators. He noted that the digital age requires continuous investment in advanced technology.

Fourth: The social and ethical dimensions of innovation.

He stressed that technological innovation impacts not only the economy but also society and its values. He added, asking: “How can we maximize the opportunities created by technology while also advancing inclusivity, addressing ethical concerns, and ensuring safety and sustainability?”

At the conclusion of his speech, His Excellency affirmed that ICASF 2025 embodies the principle that sustainability is not merely a slogan but a global working approach that balances economic, social, and environmental needs, respects the requirements of diverse societies, and strengthens peace and prosperity. He expressed his appreciation to Abu Dhabi University, the speakers, and the participants, wishing them a successful conference and a pleasant stay in the UAE.

The opening ceremony was attended by His Excellency Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities; Eng. Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure for Energy and Petroleum Affairs; Dr. Ali Saeed bin Harmal Al Dhaheeri, Chairman ...; Dr. Arif Sultan Al Hammadi, Executive Vice President of Khalifa University; Dr. Ahmed Al Raisi, Vice Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University; Professor Waldemar Siwiński, President of the International Observatory for University Rankings and Academic Excellence; Professor Liu Zhining, Chairman of the BRICS Business Council; Dr. Mohamed Al Aisati, Vice President for Data Services and Analytics at a leading



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global publishing house; Professor Patrizia Lombardi, Vice Rector for Sustainability at Politecnico di Torino in Italy; along with several academic leaders and officials from the UAE and abroad.

Dr. Ali Saeed bin Harmal Al Dhaheri emphasized the importance of Abu Dhabi University hosting this conference, which reflects the directives of the UAE's wise leadership on embedding a culture of sustainability and highlighting the notable national initiatives launched in recent years. These initiatives, he noted, have positioned the UAE as a global model in developing legislation and regulations that ensure sustainability and safeguard the environment, natural resources, and biodiversity for future generations.

He expressed Abu Dhabi University's appreciation for the international collaboration witnessed at ICASF 2025, which reflects the university's distinguished standing and leadership at the local, regional, and international levels. He also highlighted the university's team of specialized sustainability researchers, in addition to its strategic partnerships with local, regional, and international institutions engaged in sustainability-related projects and forward-looking initiatives.

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