



ADU Brief - May 2026



Abu Dhabi University
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Abu Dhabi University (ADU) Announces the 4th International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures - ICASF 2027

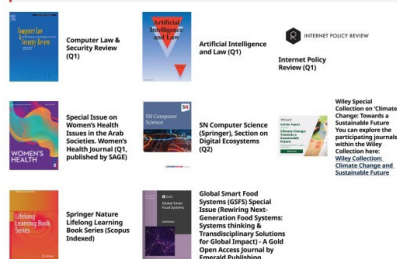


ICASF 2027 Conference Proceedings

Full papers submitted to ICASF 2027 will be considered for publication in a number of Scopus-outlets Springer Book Series:



ICASF 2027 Journals and Special Issues



Abu Dhabi University (ADU) announced the 4th International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures (ICASF 2027), taking place on 13–14 January 2027 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, under the theme “Reimagining the Future: Technology, Innovation, and Interdisciplinary Solutions for Global Impact.”

The conference will bring together academics, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore innovative and interdisciplinary solutions addressing global sustainability challenges.

Building on its growing international impact, ICASF has engaged more than 1,500 participants from 92 countries and generated multiple Scopus-indexed Springer publications, reinforcing its role as a global platform for research and collaboration.

[To access the website and register click here](#)

Global Rankings and Accreditations Highlights

THE Asia University Rankings 2026



Abu Dhabi University continues to strengthen its international standing in the **Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2026**, ranking =91 among 929 universities across 36 countries and territories. ADU also placed **3rd in the UAE** and **6th in the Arab Region**. Further reinforcing its growing reputation for research, ADU ranked **41st globally in Research Quality**.

[Learn more](#)

Faculty Achievements & Recognition

Growing the Advance HE Fellowship Community



ADU continues strengthening its commitment to teaching excellence through its collaboration with Advance HE, fostering faculty development and innovative academic practices across the University.

[Learn more](#)

Sustainability & Environmental Impact

Congratulations to the Future17 Cohort 9



Abu Dhabi University celebrated the graduation of its Future17 Cohort 9 students, part of a global initiative aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ADU was the largest participant in the Middle East, represented by 35 students and 9 mentors from the Colleges of Engineering, Health Sciences, and Business.

Working alongside 250 students from 10 international institutions, students contributed to 41 projects addressing real-world sustainability challenges, reinforcing ADU's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and responsible global engagement.

This cycle's projects explored a remarkable range of global issues, from sustainable food systems in Brazil to rethinking the value of Japanese hardwood in Japan through the project 'From Forest Decline to Sustainable Product Innovation: Reframing the Value of Japanese Hardwood' to developing climate health solutions for maternal and nursing women in Nigeria.

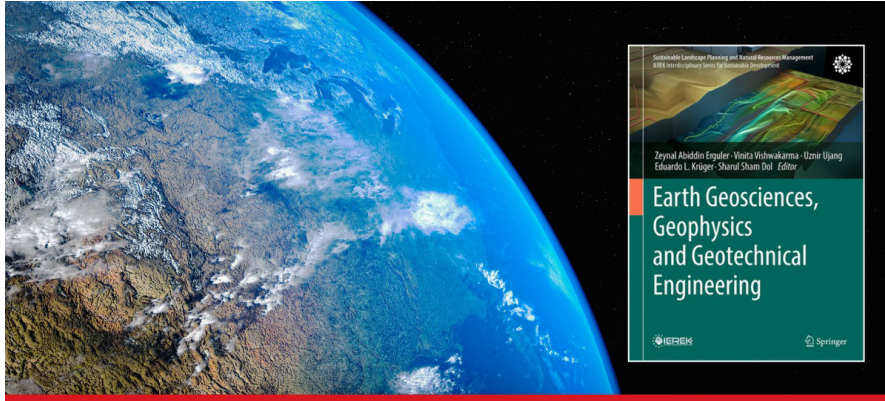
[Learn more](#)

Advancing Sustainable Innovation Through Biocomposite Research



Dr. Sabeera Haris from the College of Health Sciences showcased an innovative biocomposite prototype at 'Make it in the Emirates' at the ADU booth. Developed using date palm waste and recycled plastics, the project supports sustainable packaging solutions and advances the UAE's circular economy and sustainability goals.

Another ICASF 2024 Proceedings Volume Published by Springer



ADU continues expanding its sustainability research impact with Springer's publication of another ICASF 2024 proceedings volume, Earth Geosciences, Geophysics and Geotechnical Engineering.

The publication highlights the strong research contributions and international academic collaboration fostered through the ICASF conference and the Global Engagement Platform (GEP), reinforcing ADU's continued commitment to research excellence, sustainability, and interdisciplinary innovation.

[Learn more](#)

Industry and On-Campus Partnerships

Strengthening Industry Collaboration in Al Ain



Abu Dhabi University welcomed representatives from Strata Manufacturing PJSC to its Al Ain Campus to explore opportunities for collaboration in internships, experiential learning, curriculum development, and community-focused initiatives. The discussions reflect ADU's continued commitment to preparing future-ready graduates through strong industry partnerships.

Strengthening Healthcare Collaboration



MOU with PureHealth



MOU with HTC

Building on its commitment to collaboration and knowledge exchange, ADU continues to strengthen strategic partnerships with leading institutions and organizations. These collaborations support the university's focus on academic excellence, industry alignment, and real-world impact, creating opportunities for students, faculty, and partners.

Showcasing International Excellence

Advancing Research and Digital Transformation



Abu Dhabi University participated in the 11th International Conference of the Arab Impact Factor, under the theme 'Islamic Economics and Digital Transformation', in Cairo which brought together over 2000 academic leaders and researchers from across the region. ADU contributed to discussions on artificial intelligence, sustainability, innovation, and the future of higher education, reinforcing its commitment to research excellence and regional collaboration.

Representing ADU, Prof. Ghasan Aouad, Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, contributed to discussions on the impact of artificial intelligence on humanities education and delivered a keynote speech on innovation, research, and the future of higher education.

Prof. Sherine Farouk, Assistant Chancellor for Global Partnerships and Impact & Professor of Accounting, and Prof. Montasir Qasymeh, Associate Provost for Research, Innovation, and Academic Development and Professor of Electrical Engineering, also represented the University, reinforcing ADU's commitment to academic excellence, sustainability, and international collaboration.

Contributing to Global Higher Education Dialogue



Abu Dhabi University participated in the THE Asia Universities Summit, hosted by HKUST in Hong Kong, which brought together global leaders in higher education, research, and innovation. Representing ADU, Prof. Sherine Farouk joined a panel discussion on smart cities, sustainability, and the role of universities in shaping future-ready education.

Expanding Responsible AI and Academic Dialogue



Abu Dhabi University joined the QS Responsible AI Consortium (RAIC) Experiential Learning Program, with 56 students and 11 mentors participating in a six-week initiative focused on developing practical and ethical AI solutions.

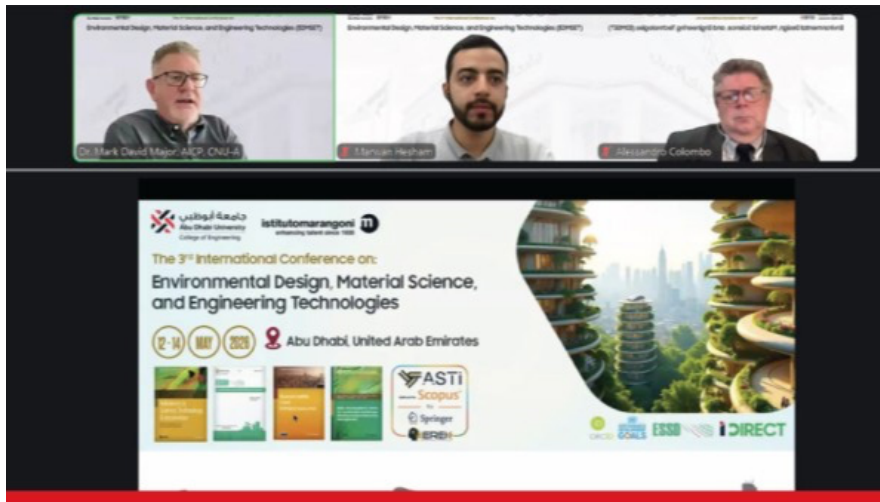
[Learn More](#)

Supporting Inclusive Futures Through AI



Abu Dhabi University contributed to the IV International Autism Conference 2026 through keynote discussions and panel sessions exploring AI, digital transformation, and inclusive education. The discussions highlighted opportunities to better support autistic students in higher education and reinforced ADU's commitment to 'education for all.'

EDMEST 2026



ADU Concludes EDMSET 2026 with Global Recommendations to Advance Sustainable and Resilient Design. Abu Dhabi University (ADU) concludes the third edition of the International Conference on Environmental Design, Material Science, and Engineering Technologies (EDMSET 2026), bringing together global academics, architects, engineers, researchers, and industry experts to discuss practical solutions shaping the future of sustainable and resilient environments.

[Learn More](#)

Sustainability in Higher Education at the Global Sustainability Academia Presidents Forum



Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, delivered a keynote address at the **Global Sustainability Academia Presidents Forum 2026**, highlighting how sustainability and the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are embedded across the University's academic, research, and operational framework.

The keynote emphasized ADU's commitment to empowering students as active agents of change and advancing sustainability through education, innovation, and strategic partnerships, reinforcing the University's role in shaping sustainable practices in higher education.

Strengthening International Collaboration with the University of Reading



Representatives from Abu Dhabi University, including Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor, Prof. Barry O'Mahony, Provost, and Prof. Raphael Heffron, Dean of the College of Law, visited the University of Reading to explore opportunities for future collaboration and participate in celebrations marking the University's 100th anniversary.

Key highlights of the visit included the signing of a Letter of Intent to strengthen collaboration, participation in discussions on climate education and sustainability, and strategic meetings with academic leaders across various disciplines. The visit further reinforced ADU's commitment to global engagement, academic partnerships, and international collaboration.

Strengthening Collaboration with SOAS, University of London



Representatives from Abu Dhabi University, including Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor, Prof. Barry O'Mahony, Provost, and Prof. Raphael Heffron, Dean of the College of Law, visited the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London to discuss collaboration initiatives and strengthen institutional partnerships.

The visit included discussions with senior leadership and academic representatives focused on advancing academic engagement, strengthening global partnerships, and supporting collaborative initiatives across areas of mutual interest.

ADU Alumni & Student Activities and Achievements

Celebrating Alumni Success



Abu Dhabi University is proud to celebrate the achievements of alumnus Dr. Mohamed Al-Qadi, who completed his Master of Public Law in 2020 with First-Class Honors and later earned his PhD in Law with First-Class Honors and Excellent standing. His success reflects the dedication of our alumni, who continue to make a meaningful impact and serve as proud ambassadors of ADU.

Shaping Strategic Leaders



Abu Dhabi University is proud to celebrate alumna Dr. Sameera Al Obeidli, now Vice President at NMC, whose journey through the Master of Strategic Leadership program reflects the lasting impact of ADU's commitment to developing future-ready leaders. Her achievements continue to inspire the next generation of strategic leadership.

College Achievements and Updates

College of Law Joins the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA)



The College of Law at Abu Dhabi University has joined the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA), an international network dedicated to advancing legal education and academic collaboration.

This membership strengthens opportunities for research collaboration, academic partnerships, international exchange, and knowledge sharing, while reinforcing the College's commitment to preparing future-ready legal professionals through global engagement and best-practice exchange.

[Learn More about our COL](#)

Future Pioneers Award 2025–2026: Global Recognition for Sustainability and Innovation



Abu Dhabi University achieved notable recognition at the Future Pioneers Award 2025–2026 by BEEAH, highlighting the University's commitment to sustainability, innovation, and student engagement.

The Academic Success Center (ASC) at the Abu Dhabi campus secured third place globally in the Universities and Schools category, recognizing its efforts in promoting sustainability awareness and creating opportunities for students to contribute through academic and engagement initiatives.

In addition, Prof. Jolly Jacob, Eng. Marah Alhalabi, and alumna Shajitha Farvin secured First Place in the Groups Category for Sustainable Solutions for their project EcoACT, an AI-driven initiative designed to optimize energy consumption, water usage, and waste management through intelligent systems and predictive modeling.

These achievements reflect ADU's continued efforts in empowering innovation and developing impactful solutions that address global sustainability challenges.

Strategic Academic Partnership at EPIC 2026



The Biomedical Sciences Department at the College of Health Sciences participated as an official Strategic Academic Partner in the Elite Pediatric International Congress (EPIC 2026) held in Abu Dhabi.

The congress brought together healthcare professionals, researchers, students, alumni, and industry leaders to promote scientific exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and continuous medical education. The participation highlighted ADU's continued commitment to strengthening academic partnerships and advancing knowledge exchange in healthcare and biomedical sciences.

Research Spotlight

Research Recognized at the Excellence and Creative Engineering Award



Research led by Dr. Reem Sabouni titled "Characterization of 3D Printed Concrete Mixtures Developed Using Local UAE Materials Based on Rheological Properties" received Second Place in the Excellence and Creative Engineering Award – 4th Edition under the Best Scientific Research in the Engineering Field category.

Organized by the Society of Engineers-UAE, the award recognized the project among more than 200 submitted entries, highlighting ADU's continued commitment to impactful engineering research and innovation.

Advancing Legal Research, Innovation, and Academic Recognition



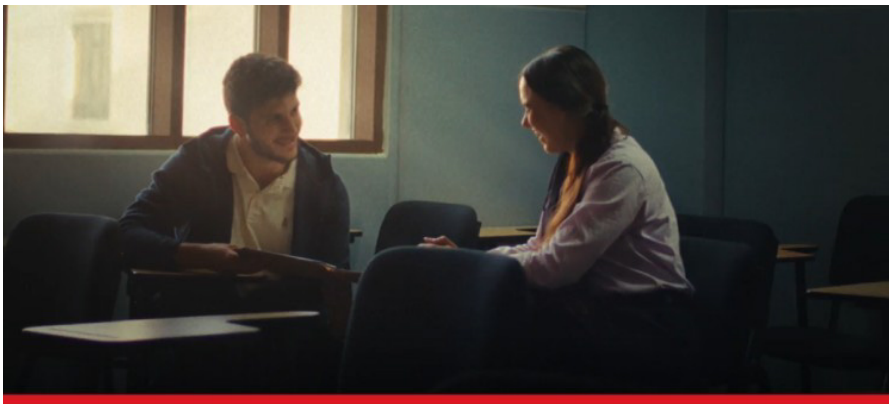
The College of Law continues to strengthen its research impact, with Dr. Yassine Chami, Dr. Dina Imad, and Prof. Raphael Heffron receiving University research grants for 2025–26 in areas spanning digital justice, criminal liability in space, and energy markets.

The College also highlighted a recent publication by Dr. Yassine Chami in a Scopus Q2-indexed journal that explores the relationship among Islamic Sharia, modern legal systems, and fair judicial decision-making in evolving societies.

In addition, Dr. Dina Imad Joumblatt, Chair of the Department of Public Law and Assistant Professor of Public Law, has been appointed to the Editorial Board of Corporate Law & Governance Review, a Scopus-indexed journal published by Virtus Interpress. The appointment reflects ADU's continued contribution to global academic research and scholarly leadership in law and governance.

People & Community

Ma'an-ADU: Educational Initiative for All



As part of the UAE's Year of Family, Abu Dhabi University, in collaboration with Ma'an, launched its annual initiative to support students in need and create meaningful opportunities for academic success.

The initiative reflects ADU's commitment to empowering students by removing barriers to education and fostering a supportive community that helps students achieve their aspirations and build a brighter future.

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