

UrbanPlanningUpdate

Newsletter of the Department of Urban Planning

01:01 February 2010

www.alhosnu.ae/dup/upu

Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of *Urban Planning Update* covering individual and departmental highlights. Each issue will feature regular updates on activities and achievements by students and faculty, along with a handful of reports, event announcements, and spotlights. All in two pages! ALHOSN University's Department of Urban Planning (DUP) remains one of the first academic programs in the UAE to focus on urban planning at the undergraduate level. Through UPU and the activities it reports on, our hope here at ALHOSN is to help raise such awareness and ultimately cement a culture of planning and urban design within the region.

—Adnan Husnéin, Ph.D.

The Ninth Intercollegiate Public Speaking Competition



Students from the Department of Urban Planning at ALHOSN University participated in the 9th Intercollegiate Public Speaking Competition hosted by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) last November 19, 2009 at the Knowledge Village in Dubai. It marked the fourth consecutive year of ALHOSN's participation in the event. Two teams represented the university under the guidance of Dr Adnan Husnéin. *Team ALHOSN One* tackled the topic of "Economy vs. Ecology: Keeping the Ecosystem in Balance." The members were: Maitha Al Nyadi (speaker), Lubna Falah Mustafa, and Fatima El Zahra Osman. *Team ALHOSN Two* debated the topic of "Carbon Trading: Offsetting or Cheating?" and was represented by Hala El Said (speaker), Gada Awani, and Enas Khalil.

Planning Student, International Climate Champion



Bashaer Al-Matroushi, an Urban Planning junior student, has been included among the UAE candidates to the British Council's Middle East International Climate Champions (ICC) for 2009 - 2010. The ICC program is implemented in 60 countries across the globe through the assistance of over 1,300 youths who are actively involved in climate change initiatives. Al-Matroushi is proposing a community environmental program that will rally individuals, concerned groups and businesses to protect and maintain threatened ecosystems through various activities such as tree planting, donations, recycling, competitions, and environmentally themed celebrations. Al-Matroushi has been participating in several environmental campaigns sponsored by organizations such as ADNOC, ERWDA and ALHOSN University. Last year, Bashaer represented ALHOSN at the 8th Intercollegiate Public Speaking Competition.

UPC Unveils New Plans for the Beach Project

Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council (UPC) highlighted key world class facilities and recreational activities that the Abu Dhabi Corniche will soon begin offering to residents and visitors. The UPC also unveiled the new identity for the Abu Dhabi Beach project which has been designed by the office of the Brand of Abu Dhabi.

The ongoing improvements at the Abu Dhabi Corniche, are being jointly undertaken by the UPC, Executive Affairs Authority and Abu Dhabi Municipality, Department of Transport and Abu Dhabi Police. The Corniche Beach enhancement program began over a year ago. The Corniche Project is aimed at ensuring that its beach and amenities provide comprehensive recreation and

leisure opportunities for the entire Abu Dhabi community. The Project will also enhance safety by improving street-crossing access for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, and provide an improved family oriented experience. In an innovative step, UPC invites all residents to visit its website www.upc.gov.ae to find out more about the project. (Source: <http://www.upc.gov.ae> accessed: 05/10/2009)

Abu Dhabi GIS Day

Post contributed by Senior Husain Al Hadrami

DUP organized a trip for students to attend the second annual Abu Dhabi GIS Day at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC) on 18-19 November 2009. The event, organized by the Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre (ADSIC), showcased the exemplary work being carried out by over 35 organizations that are leading the way in GIS development in Abu Dhabi Emirate.

Abu Dhabi GIS Day 2009 brought together leaders, decision-makers, government executives, experts, educators and interested members of the public to see firsthand the various benefits realized from using GIS technology applications.



This GIS Day event highlighted the important role of the Abu Dhabi Spatial Data Infrastructure (AD-SDI) initiative in helping to facilitate, coordinate, support and promote cross-agency coordination as well as sharing of information. This year's event also includes an expanded education area for students, a Geospatial Dome exhibit for visitors, and the launch of the enhanced AD-SDI Geospatial Portal, that provides access to the growing AD-SDI community shared spatial data clearinghouse. Students learned about the important role GIS plays within the rapidly expanding and changing landscape of Abu Dhabi Emirate. The trip was facilitated by part-time faculty Eng. Zahi Akiki.

2009 Highlights

Urban Planning Class 2009: Commencement 2009 saw the graduation of our first crop of urban planners. The ceremony was held on November 18, 2009 at Emirates Palace under the patronage of the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, H.H. Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The graduates are: Fatima Mustansar (*summa cum laude*), Mohamed Jafri, Noor Al Mansouri, Alaa Hajar and Anfal Rashid.

3rd Annual Earth Day: In affirming full support for Abu Dhabi's leadership in sustainability policies and practices, ALHOSN invited guest speakers from industries and government agencies to discuss key environmental issues, and organizing photo exhibits, displaying recycled sculptures and holding competitions and student presentations on how to care for the environment through local and global actions.



Eco-Kayaking Trip: ALHOSN Green Club organized its first kayaking trip on March 19, 2009 along Abu Dhabi's Eastern Mangrove Corniche. The idea for the trip was initially conceived by "greenies" enrolled in "Al-Bahia" Environmental Planning Studio and the Urban Ecology class. For students, this was a wonderful opportunity to explore the mangrove vegetation surrounding our beautiful island city.



Upcoming Events

DUP plans to launch its **Planning Lecture Series** this spring. A couple of interesting lectures are slated for this month of February. The first one will discuss the legal fallout of the financial crisis in Dubai. The second will address the Atlas as a tool for the analysis of metropolitan regions."

An urban design field trip is also being planned for early March to explore the historic districts of Al-Bastakiya and Al-Shindagha in Dubai. The trip is open to all students who enrolled in the design-related fields (For more info please contact Dr. Adnan Husnein at a.husnein@alhosnu.ae).

Quote of the Month: "It is always inspiring to see our youth blossom into educated men and women who are eager to contribute to the development of society. The world is currently facing several challenges which require the vision and energy of the younger generation to resolve."

—Prof. Abdul Rahim Sabouni, Vice Chancellor and CEO, ALHOSN University, *Commencement 2009*, 18 November 2009