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MINISTRY OF ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



EmiratesGBC
Annual Congress

13 th Annual EmiratesGBC Congress

BEYOND COP28: THE ROLE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
TO DELIVER ON THE UAE CONSENSUS

12th - 13th June 2024



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In line with the year of sustainability and building on COP28, the congress brought together regulators, industry and academia to explore and discuss the essential role of the built environment in the global transition to sustainability and in accelerating climate action and how we can unite, act and deliver what was agreed upon during the conference of parties.

The construction industry consumes roughly half of virgin resources globally and accounts for close to 40% of global carbon emissions and solid waste streams. With increasing urbanization, building more sustainably is essential to achieving SDGs and national climate targets.

The built environment must be positioned as a critical sector to achieve the needed transition to zero emissions future and as a solution to scaling economic, social and climate resilience, to keep a 1.5-degree future within reach. The congress explored common challenges, opportunities and strategies through sharing good practice. Whatever your industry sector, the size and nature of your organization, the congress helped you drive forward these transformation efforts.





EmiratesGBC Congress - Day 1

The first day of the congress commenced with inspiring Opening Remarks on behalf of Her Highness Sheikha Shamma Bint Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Honorary President of EmiratesGBC and President & CEO of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators. The remarks were eloquently delivered by Elham AlQasim, Chief Strategy and Technology Officer.

This was followed by the Chairman's Address, presented by Mr. Khaled Bushnaq, Chairman of EmiratesGBC, who shared key insights and set the stage for the discussions ahead.

The morning session concluded with an impactful presentation titled "Key Outcomes for the Built Environment from COP28 and the UAE Consensus", delivered by Abdullatif Albitawi, CEO of EmiratesGBC.



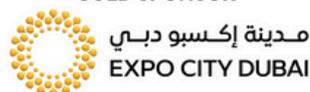
DAY 1

BEYOND COP28: THE ROLE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO DELIVER ON THE UAE CONSENSUS

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Session 1: Actioning COP28 Outcomes

(Including: UAE Consensus, Building Breakthrough, Doubling on Energy-Efficiency)

The first session of the congress, "Actioning COP28 Outcomes," laid the foundation for meaningful action toward sustainability in the built environment. The session began with an inspiring recorded video speech by Cristina Gamboa, CEO of the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC), highlighting the critical role of global collaboration in achieving COP28 goals. This was followed by a significant MOU Signing Ceremony between the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) and Meiyar, symbolizing a joint commitment to fostering sustainable practices in the UAE's building sector. Additionally, a recorded speech by Pascal Eveillard, Director of Sustainable Business Development at Saint-Gobain, titled "Buildings Breakthrough," was shared.



Panel Discussion: The Building Breakthrough: Closing on Net Zero

The panel began by addressing the Global Cooling Pledge launched at COP28, with over 60 countries as signatories, and its implications for the district cooling industry. Given that cooling is a significant energy consumer, the discussion shifted to district cooling's evolution in line with UAE's environmental goals. Although district cooling services have made progress, the industry still faces challenges that need to be addressed to maximize its potential.

Moderator: Raji Hattar, Chair of the WorldGBC MENA Network

Speakers:

- Hanane El Ghiouane, Senior Commercial Advisor, The Foreign Ministry of Denmark – Trade Council UAE & Qatar
- Dr. Ioannis Spanos, VP Sustainability, EXPO City
- Rohan Chopra, Regional Director of Sustainability – EMEA, Johnson Controls
- Ezzidine Jradi, Head of Sustainability and Business Excellence, Emicool
- Mohammad Jebreel, Sustainability and Net Zero Strategist, EmiratesGBC Vice Chair





Session 2: Policies Driving Sustainability in the Built Environment

Panel Discussion : Empowering the Built Environment through Data

The panel examined how data monitoring, collection, analysis, and accessibility drive sustainability efforts and inform decision-making in the built environment. It also emphasised the value of benchmarking to help organisations assess their performance, set achievable goals, and develop data-driven strategies for sustainable growth

Moderator: Mohammad Juma, Emirates Green Building Council

Speakers:

- Ahmed Labeeb, Senior Sustainability Manager, KEO
- Omnia Halawani, Co-CEO and Founder, Grfn
- Jane Boyle, Head of Sustainability, AD Airports





Panel Discussion : Municipalities Empowering Decarbonization in the Built Environment

The panel delved into the complexities municipalities face in developing green building codes, providing participants with an understanding of both the process and effectiveness of these codes. The discussion highlighted strategies through which municipalities can amplify the impact of green building codes on sustainable construction practices.

Moderator: Alida Saleh, Head of Sustainability -MEA, JLL, Senior Advisor, Climate Champions Team, Built Environment

Speakers:

- Dr. Abeer Sajwani Section Head – Policies and Environment Planning and Infrastructure Sector DMT, Abu Dhabi
- Andrea Di Gregorio, Executive Director, Energy Efficiency and Renewables Office (Reem), Ras Al Khaimah Municipality
- Aisha Saleh Ali ALTunaiji, Director of Spatial Information Systems Department, Ajman Municipality
- Ameera Ahmad Aljasmī, Green Building Engineer in the Research and Building Systems Section at the Building Permits Department in Dubai Municipality





Presentation : Transformative Climate Actions for a Resilient UAE

By: Mario Saab, Head of Sustainability, MENA, Cundall

The presentation provided a comprehensive exploration of climate resilience. It delved into the UAE's current climate scenario and outlined actionable strategies for enhancing resilience, focusing on transformative approaches to address emerging climate challenges.





Session 3: : Green Supply Chain

(Circular Economy, Embodied Carbon, EPDs)

Presentation : CARES Digitally-Enabled Conformity Assurance & Digital Product Passport System

By: Ayhan Turgul, Chief Operating Officer, CARES

The presentation highlighted CARES' role in advancing sustainability through digitalization, emphasizing its UAE Scheme for Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement and the transformative potential of the CARES Cloud. Key innovations such as Digital Steel Supply Chain Assurance, and the Digital Product Passport, showcased the importance of transparency and accountability in fostering a resilient and efficient construction sector.





Panel Discussion : The Supply Chain Through the Lens of Circularity

The panel explored how circularity principles can reshape the supply chain in the built environment, focusing on reducing emissions and promoting sustainable practices. Panellists from diverse sectors—including cement, tile manufacturing, sustainability consulting, and construction—shared insights on the challenges and progress toward circularity in their industries.

Moderator: Viacheslav Zavgorodniy, Associate Director, Consulting, Tenet

Speakers:

- Lindsey Malcolm , Sustainability Lead – Middle East, Turner&Townsend
- Khaled El Dokani - CEO Lafarge UAE, Oman & Qatar
- Anjali Lukose, Head of ESG, ALEC
- Abdallah Massaad, CEO, Rak Ceramics





Presentation : Navigating Transformational Change in Sustainable Construction

By: Dr. Ali AlAmiri, Regional Director for Building Engineering & Specialisms, EGIS

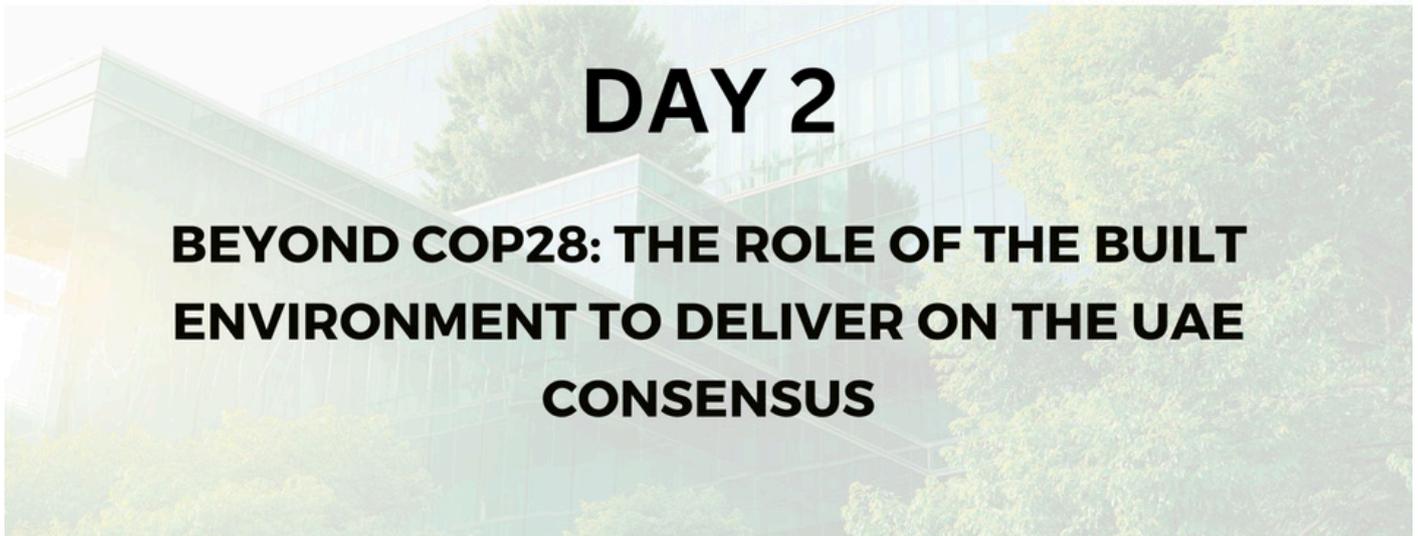
The presentation highlighted innovative approaches, best practices, and case studies that challenge conventional design paradigms. It called on industry professionals to embrace ambitious briefs, adopt advanced technologies like parametric design and BIM modeling, and foster collaboration to achieve stringent sustainability benchmarks and prioritize occupant well-being.





EmiratesGBC Congress - Day 2

The second day of the EmiratesGBC Annual Congress 2024 began with the Chairman’s Reflection by Mr. Khaled Bushnaq, Chairman of EmiratesGBC. He provided an insightful overview of the key discussions and takeaways from Day 1, emphasizing the progress made and the importance of continued collaboration to drive sustainability in the built environment. His reflections set the stage for another impactful day of dialogue and action.



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Session 4 : Accelerating Progress to Net Zero

(Circular Economy, Embodied Carbon, EPDs)

Presentation : The Road to Net Zero – Decarbonizing the Existing Built Environment

By: Balsam Nehme, Partner, Director of Sustainability, Dar

The presentation emphasized the critical importance of achieving net zero through innovative retrofitting strategies and forward-thinking design. Case studies showcased practical solutions that extend sustainability efforts beyond traditional approaches, inspiring a holistic perspective on the built environment's role in addressing climate challenges.





Panel Discussion : Beyond the Blueprint: Developers Leading Change

The panel discussion aimed to highlight best practices in the sustainable built environment of the UAE by providing a platform for leading developers to share their journeys, challenges, success stories, and case studies. It also demonstrated how these top developers have elevated the standard market requirements for sustainability and exceeded the sector's established goals.

Moderator: Yousef Abbas, Senior Specialist Sustainability, AD Ports Group

Speakers:

- Chris Wan, Associate Director, Sustainability and CSR, Masdar City
- Nazly Asadollahpour, Director of Sustainability, Majid Al Futtaim
- Haithem Ibrahim, Vice President – Operations BrookField Properties





Presentation : MOEI's Blueprint for Sustainable Future | Enhancing Quality of Life Through Sustainable Buildings & Construction Sector

By: Asma Naqi – Head of R&D and Sustainability Section, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

The presentation emphasizing the pivotal role of research, innovation, and collaboration. Key initiatives such as the National Sustainability Guidelines, the National Smart Construction Guidelines, and the MOEI Research & Innovation Award 2024-2025 were showcased as drivers for enhancing quality of life and fostering a sustainable future.





Panel Discussion : The Untapped Potential of Retrofitting the Building Stock

The panel discussion aimed to establish the context for retrofitting in the UAE by incorporating the viewpoints of various stakeholders from different Emirates. It then explored the potential of retrofitting, addressed the challenges involved, and identified the necessary actions to bridge gaps and maximize the potential of retrofitting.

Moderator: : Lanre Lawale, Associate, Façade Engineering, Arup

Speakers:

- Faisal Rashid, Senior Director, Supreme Council of Energy
- Nicholas Byczynski, Director of Sustainable Engineering, AESG
- Rahul Mehta, Digital Energy MEA- Vice President - Schneider Electric





Presentation : The UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint

By: Jamila Elmir, Senior Advisor to the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, COP28, The Private Office of H.E. Razan Al Mubarak

The presentation highlighted EmiratesGBC's collaboration with UN Climate Champions to mobilize UAE industry leaders through the Developers Leaders Forum. This initiative culminated in a comprehensive survey identifying key factors for unlocking climate action, leading to the creation of the UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint report.





Session 5 : Financing the Transition in the Built Environment

Presentation : Decarbonomics™

By: Paul Raphael, Regional Director, Strategic Advisory, AtkinsRealis

The presentation introduced an innovative approach to cost-effectively decarbonize buildings and estates by integrating people, data, and technology. It showcased a dynamic digital platform incorporating UAE benchmark data and leveraging AtkinsRéalis' building data library and open-source databases to enhance analysis and decision-making





Panel Discussion : Finance Fuelling the Sustainable Transition of the Built Environment

The session explored how finance can drive the transition towards a more sustainable built environment. By examining current challenges and opportunities, the discussion aimed to uncover ways to make finance more accessible and possible. The session provided insights into using finance to overcome barriers and maximize its potential in fostering sustainable development.

Moderator: By: Zulema Sanchis, Director, Accuracy

Speakers:

- Zoe Knight, Group Head, Centre of Sustainable Finance and Head of Climate Change MENA, HSBC
- Philipp Rosenthal, Climate Change, Carbon & Waste Middle East Leader, WSP
- Aditya Shah, Chief Growth Officer, Taka Solutions





Presentation : Decarbonomics™

By: Michael Amos, Managing Director, Waste To Wonder

The presentation explored the potential of re-purposing used furniture, emphasizing its ability to significantly reduce embodied carbon when properly extracted and redirected. By highlighting circularity, the session underscored how strategic reuse can drive sustainable practices, contributing to a more sustainable built environment.





Presentation : Launching the 2024 MENA Green Building Awards

By: Lana AbuQulbain, Technical Engineer, EmiratesGBC

The presentation at the 2024 EmiratesGBC Congress introduced the MENA Green Building Awards 2024, outlining the process and significance of recognizing excellence in sustainable building practices across the region. It highlighted the awards' role in celebrating innovative projects and initiatives that contribute to a greener, more sustainable built environment in the MENA region.





Special Thanks

EmiratesGBC would like to extend a special thanks our partners and sponsors who contributed to making the 13th Annual EmiratesGBC Congress a success.

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The Emirates Green Building Council was formed in 2006 with the goal of advancing green building principles for protecting environment and ensuring sustainability in the United Arab Emirates.

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