



August 2011

Middle East and North Africa ESTH Hub Activities Report

**Women in Science Hall of Fame:** We have now featured all of the inaugural 2010 class of the NEA Women in Science Hall of Fame Honorees in our Hub Activities Reports and are soliciting the 2011 group of outstanding women scientists. The ESTH Hub extends special thanks to all of the ESTH and Public Affairs Officers and local staff in the following NEA posts that submitted honorees last year: Embassies Abu Dhabi, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Manama, Kuwait, Rabat, Riyadh, Tunis, Muscat, and Sana'a; Consulate Jerusalem; and Muthanna PRT, Iraq. Keep up the good work and we look forward to receiving the next group of exemplary female scientists!

**Mobile Science Van Project:** The ESTH Hub is collaborating with the Public Diplomacy Section at the Embassy in Amman to bring science to middle school students in Jordan! To complement the Embassy's two existing American Corners, a mobile science van will travel with displays and science experiments to rural schools in Northern Jordan. The Embassy is partnering with local and U.S. organizations to implement this project. As our main partner, we selected the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center (<http://www.johud.org.jo/Youth.html>), which has expertise in promoting the role of youth in society through its 50 youth development centers throughout Jordan. We will train science students from the Jordan University of Science and Technology to help the children conduct science experiments. Embassy Amman hosted Dr. Crystal Harden, Director of the Traveling Science Learning Program at the University of North Carolina's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, who conducted a number of discussions and workshops on pedagogy, research methods, and informal science teaching, as well as science activities and experiments at youth centers in July. Dr. Harden assisted in selecting a number of students from different scientific disciplines at the Jordan University for Science and Technology as the core group to carry out the outreach activities when the science van is operational.



*Crystal with kids from mabbarrat Um Al-Hussein Organization conducting science experiments – Photos courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Amman*

*Disclaimer: The following news articles do not represent the point of view of the ESTH Hub or any USG representative and are merely a collection of articles gathered from local and online media.*

**GLOBAL – Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship for Applicants from Europe, the Middle East, and Africa 2012:** Dr. Anita Borg devoted her adult life to revolutionizing the way we think about technology and dismantling barriers that keep women and minorities from entering computing and technology fields. Her combination of technical expertise and fearless vision continues to inspire and motivate countless women to become active participants and leaders in creating technology. As part of Google’s ongoing commitment to furthering Anita’s vision, Google announced The Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Through the scholarship, women are encouraged to excel in computing and technology, and become active role models and leaders. For more details and information go to: <http://www.google.com/anitaborg/emea/> and <http://www.google.com/anitaborg/emea/faq.html>. [Source: Scholarship-Positions.com]



**GLOBAL - Global Ideas Competition:** The Cleantech Open runs the world’s largest clean technology business competition and is looking for the best clean technology ideas from around the world! Over 50 countries can compete and the winner from each country will get to travel to San Francisco to participate in the Global Ideas Competition during the Global Entrepreneurship

Week. That week, the sponsors will award a prize package of services worth \$100,000 to help the grand prize winner to start a business. For details, go to: <https://www.cleantechopen.com/app.cgi/content/competition/ideas/eligibility>.

**MENA – A Visual Guide to Energy and Carbon Emissions in the Arab World:** Carboun is an advocacy initiative promoting sustainability and environmental conservation in the Middle East, <http://www.carboun.com/about/>. Carboun has recently released a visual guide to energy and emissions with the goal of explaining the fundamentals of energy use in the region and how it relates to carbon emissions, economic development, climate change, and renewable energy. It aims to explain the regional trends in local details but within the global context. ***Please note that Copyrights for all infographics are reserved for Carboun. No reproduction or republishing of any infographic or part thereof without prior written consent from Carboun.*** <http://www.carboun.com/energy/a-visual-guide-to-energy-and-carbon-emissions-in-the-arab-world-infographic/>.

**Middle East - FoEME Wins The Outstanding Leadership Award:** Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) will be awarded the Outstanding Leadership Award by the International Development Committee (IDC) of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR). Each year, the International Section of the ACR honors exceptional work promoting conflict resolution in development projects around the world. The award aims to celebrate leadership in the field and draw attention to the importance of conflict resolution in creating stronger democracies and economies. The award ceremony is being held on the 12th of October, in San Diego, California U.S.A. <http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=3345>. [Source: Environment and Climate in the Middle East]

### **GULF - Art Exhibition to Showcase**

**Arabia's Wild Side:** A large coalition of conservation groups have teamed up with National Geographic Al Arabiya to launch a massive outdoor art exhibition to tackle people's perceptions and showcase a wide variety of species from the Arabian Peninsula. It is hoped that the exhibition will raise awareness of the region's biodiversity and also encourage a culture of conservation amongst citizens in the Gulf nations. The world premier exhibition will take place in the Abu Dhabi Corniche in December 2011 and will then head to Dubai before travelling internationally over the next couple of years.

It will be displayed in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Europe and North America. Entry will be free and there will be 24/7 access, since the exhibition is outdoors. Here is a link to the newsletter: [http://www.wmenews.com/newsletters/1312482688WME\\_V611\\_en.pdf](http://www.wmenews.com/newsletters/1312482688WME_V611_en.pdf). [Source: Wild Life Middle East News Letter]



*Photos by Wild Arabia with National Geographic Facebook*

### **JORDAN - University Students Plan to Make Good Use of an Abandoned Mass**

**Transit Lane:** A group of university students from Jordanian universities came up with a creative way to make use of a halted major project in the middle of Amman. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project was suspended and funding was cut due to a corruption case a few months back. The project is on the route of a major traffic street leading to four universities. Students launched a campaign called "Get your bike and follow me," and are encouraging their fellow students to use bikes instead of regular means of transportation. Three of the founding students created a Facebook page to promote their idea, which had attracted almost 400 supporters by in less than 24 hours!

<http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=40794>.

[Source: The Jordan Times]

### **JORDAN - Night Vision Cameras Monitor Animal Species in Southern Ghor:**

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) installed night vision cameras to monitor an alleged new animal species in southern Ghor. The cameras were installed after residents in Ghor Fifa and Ghor Safi claimed sighting new animals and expressed fear that they could be predators. <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=40931>. [Source: The Jordan Times]



*Photos by George Markarian via GreenPeace page on Facebook*

### **JORDAN – Green Peace Organizes the**

**5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Nuclear Protest:** On August 16, Green Peace Jordan and *Irhamouna* (have mercy on us) campaign organized a sit-in in front of Mafraq Municipality near Majdal, the site of the planned Jordanian nuclear program. Now that Jordan is months away from announcing the winning bidder to construct the country's first nuclear reactor, anti-nuclear activists vowed to step up their protest activities. The Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) is currently vetting offers from three shortlisted companies and will

announce the winner in December 2011. Green Peace Jordan is on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/greenpeacejo](http://www.facebook.com/greenpeacejo) . [Source: Al-Rai Newspaper]

**EGYPT - Rare Sea Turtle Saved From Becoming a Meal:** Health and food inspectors in the Egyptian coastal city of Alexandria rescued a rare, 90-year old sea turtle from a vendor intent on slaughtering it for a meal! <http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/SciTech/20110829/sea-turtle-saved-from-butcher-block-110829/1>. [Source: CTV News]

**BAHRAIN – Government to Upgrade Environmental Protection Regulations:** The Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife in Bahrain will submit an urgent report calling for stricter environmental regulations. A variety of environmental issues were raised during Bahrain's National Dialogue, and a panel of experts, led by commission director-general Dr. Al Zayani, will compile the report and refer recommendations to the government for implementation. New environmental regulatory reforms will include stricter licensing to control industrial pollution levels. Protective regulations will also be implemented to create and conserve biologically diverse environments throughout Bahrain. <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/bahrain-to-upgrade-environmental-protection-regulations-128146523.html>. [Source: PRNewswire]

#### Green Tip of the month

*Reduce Paper Usage: Did you know that the average worker uses about **12,000 sheets** of paper in one year? (Source: officePRO, April 2008) Reduce your paper usage by 50% and print two-sided copies!*

#### **FUTURE EVENTS:**

**October 16 – 21, Cairo:** Africa-GIS Conference, for more info:

[africagis2011@narss.sci.eg](mailto:africagis2011@narss.sci.eg) or [info.africagis2011@narss.sci.eg](mailto:info.africagis2011@narss.sci.eg).

**October 17-19, Kuwait:** The First Arab Frontiers in Science Symposium,

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/dsc/AAFfrontiers/index.htm>.

**October 21-23, Cairo:** International Conference on Computer Engineering and Bioinformatics (ICCEB 2011), <http://www.icceb.org/>

**October 11 – 12, Marseille:** ECO-CITIES FORUM 2011, <http://www.semaine-eco-med.com/en/eco-cities-forum>.

**October 29 – November 1, Abu Dhabi:** 1st International Conference on Desalination and Environment, <http://www.icodeconference.com/>

**November 1 – 3, Beirut:** ESRI Middle East and Africa Users Conference, <http://www.esri.com/events/meauc/index.html>

**November 21 – 24, Amman:** Technology and its Applications in Environmental Management & Planning, <http://www.enviro-arab.com/enviromatics11/>.

**November 22 – 23, Amman:** The 2nd International Conference on Alternative Energy/Bio-fuels, <http://www.tc-center.com/conferences.htm>.

**November 25 - 27, Maldives:** 2011 International Conference on Environment Science and Biotechnology (ICESB 2011), <http://www.icesb.org>

**November 28 – 30, Dammam:** Sustainability through Biomimicry: Discovering a World of Solutions Inspired by Nature, <http://ud.edu.sa/web/college/137/2250>.

**November 29 - 30, Amman:** Solar Levant and GCC, <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/EF/?sSubSystem=Prospectus&sEventCode=SP1111JO&sSessionID=755c11fd728b8d0858f2e52c4fee9beb-3679443>.

**December 8-10, Alexandria:** The Second Euro-Med Conference Plant Natural Products from Biodiversity to Bioindustry "BioNat-II", <http://www.bionats.org/main/>

**December 12 – 15, Abu Dhabi:** "Eye on Earth" Summit, <http://eyeonearthsummit.net/>.

**December 19-20, Amman:** GIST Entrepreneurship Workshop/Business Pitch Competition/Award Ceremony event

**January 23 – 26, 2012, Cairo:** The First International Conference on New Trends and Applications of GNSS, <http://www.ssc-cu.edu.eg/ar/node/14>.

**February 6-8, 2012, Jeddah:** First International Conference on Environmental Challenges in Arid Regions, <http://www.visbdev.net/visbdev/fe/Docs/ECAR-brochure-Ar.pdf>

**February 14 – 15, 2012, Dubai:** The 1st Biotechnology World Congress, <http://www.biotechworldcongress.com/>

**April 17 – 28, 2012, San Francisco:** The Third National Parks Institute Executive Leadership Seminar, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JPKBF2R>.

**April 22-25, 2012, Alexandria:** The Sixth International Biennial Conference, BioVisionAlexandria (BVA) 2012/New Life Sciences: Linking Science to Society, <http://www.bibalex.org/bva2012/Home/Home.aspx>

**March 26 – 29, 2012, Alexandria:** The 3rd Mediterranean Poultry summit of WPSA (3rd MPS) and the 6th International Poultry Conference (6th IPC), [http://www.mpn-wpsa.org/main/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=55](http://www.mpn-wpsa.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=55)

**September 5 – 9, 2013:** COBRA 2013 - RICS Legal Research Symposium, <http://www.lawlectures.co.uk/w113/cobra2013.htm>.