جامعة أبوظبي
Abu Dhabi University

UI Green Metric
World University Rankings

Abu Dhabi University in collaboration with UI GreenMetric is organizing

The 1st International Sustainability Leaders Meeting

Theme:

Doing Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education: The Story of Our Institution and Society

📅 **26 - 27 February 2025**

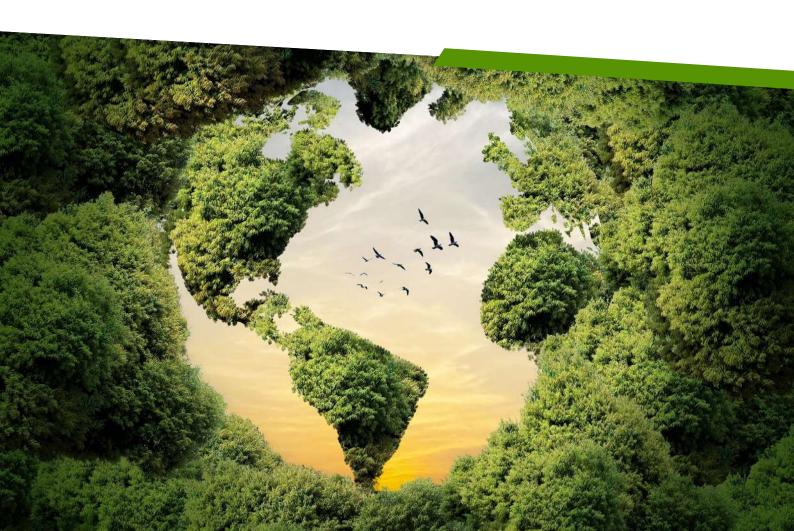📍 **Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

EVENT OVERVIEW

The 1st International Sustainability Leaders Meeting (ISLM), organized by UI GreenMetric and Abu Dhabi University, will gather global sustainability leaders and experts to discuss the most pressing sustainability issues in higher education. The event aims to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and best practices for integrating sustainability into universities worldwide.

Hosted by Abu Dhabi University, this year's theme highlights how universities can contribute to global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through institutional and societal action.

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

- **Strengthen Knowledge Sharing:** Focus on the significance of sustainability offices in universities and the human resources required for successful sustainability initiatives
- **Best Practices Exchange:** Universities from the UI GreenMetric Network will share their experiences in creating and managing sustainability offices
- **Driving Change:** Inspiring universities to implement sustainability policies and programs that ensure long-term environmental and social impact.

Welcome and Opening Speeches

Prof. Ghassan Aouad
Chancellor, Abu Dhabi University, UAE

H.E. Husin Bagis
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Arab Emirates

Prof. Riri Fitri Sari
Chairperson, UI GreenMetric World University Rankings

Sessions

Keynote Speech:
Abu Dhabi as a Sustainable City

Overview:
This session will delve into Abu Dhabi's journey towards becoming a sustainable city, highlighting its pioneering initiatives in renewable energy, urban development, and resource efficiency. It will showcase Abu Dhabi's commitment to reducing carbon emissions while addressing the challenges of rapid urbanization and balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.

SDG Alignment:
- SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities: Focuses on transforming urban spaces to be more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable
- SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy: Emphasizes renewable energy projects in Abu Dhabi
- SDG 13 - Climate Action: Addresses how Abu Dhabi is working to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change through sustainable development

Objectives:
This session aims to showcase the innovative strategies that have made Abu Dhabi a global leader in urban sustainability and inspire other cities to implement similar solutions to achieve the SDGs.

Keynote Speech:
The Future of Sustainable Universities

Overview:

This session will explore the role of universities in fostering sustainability, from integrating green practices in campus operations to advancing sustainability through research, teaching, and community engagement. It will discuss how universities can achieve global sustainability goals, focusing on carbon neutrality, circular economies, and technology-driven solutions.

SDG Alignment:

- SDG 4 - Quality Education: Highlights the importance of integrating sustainability into education, research, and institutional culture
- SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Focuses on leveraging technology and innovation to create more sustainable campuses
- SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production: Discusses the role of universities in promoting sustainable practices across operations and research
- SDG 13 - Climate Action: Explores how higher education institutions can contribute to global climate action through sustainable policies and practices

Objectives:

This session aims to empower universities to take leadership in sustainability efforts and provide strategies for overcoming challenges, such as funding, policy support, and cultural shifts towards sustainability.

Plenary Session:
Implementing the Vision

Overview:

This session will focus on the three thematic priorities of the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings Network (UIGWURN): shaping global higher education and research in sustainability, creating global sustainability leaders, and partnering on solutions to sustainability challenges. It will also provide a platform for universities to transition from conceptualizing sustainability to implementing concrete actions.

SDG Alignment:

- SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: Focuses on global collaboration and collective action to solve sustainability challenges
- SDG 4 - Quality Education: Aims to drive education for sustainability and the creation of knowledge that contributes to global sustainable development
- SDG 13 - Climate Action: Encourages active participation in sustainability programs and actions that contribute to climate change mitigation

Objectives:

The objective is to encourage member universities to participate in UI GreenMetric programs, actively contribute to sustainability initiatives, and forge meaningful partnerships to drive sustainable development in higher education.

Interactive Forum and Small Group Discussion on Advancing Sustainability and Strategic Collaboration within the UIGWURN Network

Overview:

After exploring the three thematic priorities, this session will allow participants to engage in smaller group discussions, exploring how their institutions can better align with the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings Network (UIGWURN) vision. The facilitators will guide discussions on identifying trends, reshaping strategies, and leveraging the network for collective action on sustainability.

SDG Alignment:

- SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: Encourages collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and synergies between institutions
- SDG 13 - Climate Action: Focuses on the actions that can be taken collectively to combat climate change
- SDG 4 - Quality Education: Promotes sharing knowledge and strategies to improve sustainability practices in educational institutions

Objectives:

This session aims to encourage universities to reflect on their sustainability practices, identify areas for improvement, and collaborate with others in the UI GreenMetric network to achieve sustainable development goals.

Plenary Session:
Sustainability Office:
Roles, Issues, and Challenges

Overview:
This session will emphasize the importance of the Sustainability Office in driving green initiatives within higher education institutions. It will address the various challenges these offices face, including budget limitations, policy support, and shifting institutional cultures towards more sustainable practices. The session will also highlight the role of the Sustainability Office in integrating sustainable practices into university operations and fostering innovation.

SDG Alignment:
- SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production: Focuses on integrating sustainable practices into university operations and promoting responsible resource use
- SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Highlights the role of innovation in sustainability efforts within educational institutions
- SDG 13 - Climate Action: Discusses how sustainability offices contribute to universities' climate action strategies
- SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities: Focuses on addressing inequalities through sustainable initiatives and ensuring inclusive practices within universities.

Objectives:
This session aims to provide universities with the knowledge and tools to enhance their sustainability efforts, tackle key challenges, and position the Sustainability Office as a central driver of change in university operations.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Deadline for Registration: **31 January 2025**
- Forum Fee: **$100 + VAT**
- Forum Date: **26 February 2025**
- City Tour: **27 February 2025**

REGISTER NOW!

Join us for an unforgettable experience in Abu Dhabi, where the brightest minds in sustainability will gather to discuss the future of higher education and environmental stewardship.

Register Here 👆

WHY ATTEND?

- **Global Networking:** Connect with sustainability leaders, academics, and researchers
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Gain insights from universities worldwide on implementing sustainability initiatives
- **Inspiration for Action:** Return to your institution with practical strategies to advance sustainability goals

CONTACT US:

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JOIN US IN SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND BEYOND!