



ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK TOWARDS COP28

14 – 19 JANUARY 2023

OVERVIEW & PROGRAMME

6 JANUARY 2023

PREPARED BY:



thc

taqarabu
hybrid
communications

Background

Ahead of COP28, the 15th edition Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week ([ADSW](#)), first presented in 2008, is clearly even more significant.

Established as a global platform by the UAE government and “its clean energy powerhouse” [Masdar](#), ADSW aims to reflect the Nation’s long-established ambition to put sustainability at the core of its economic transformation strategy¹.

This year it will play a crucial role in serving as a curtain raiser for hosting of COP28 at Expo City Dubai, (30 November – 12 December). ADSW will also likely offer a glimpse of the direction the UAE wants to take with the COP agenda, helping shape narratives for stakeholder engagement and corporate communications.

Another important aspect of ADSW in the context of COP, is that it seeks to demonstrate the long-standing commitment that the UAE has made to advancing transition strategies through investing in clean energy and renewables.

At a time when global opinion is likely to be critical of the UAE’s position as the 6th largest exporter² of oil, accounting for at least 30 per cent of its GDP, it will be targeted as being a major part of the problem fueling global warming.



Therefore, the credentials ADSW present offer substantial evidence to support the counterpoint – *IE that in fact the UAE is an important part of enabling the solution*. After all, the UAE was the first Arab country to set its Net Zero strategy³, which it revealed at Expo 2020 eighteen months ago.

¹ Multiple references available from government sources including [UAE Future](#)

² Multiple sources with varying estimates which fluctuate widely due to the volatility in global energy markets [World Trade](#).

³ UAE 2050 UAE [Net Zero Strategy](#)

Key Themes

ADSW aims to drive discussion around climate action in the run-up to COP28, using the World Future Energy Summit on 16 January as a forum to debate a wide range of topics including food and water security, energy access, industrial decarbonisation, health, and climate adaptation.

These serve as clues to the themes the UAE is keen to address at COP which embrace technology, space and the role of youth in embracing practices which deliver an environmental dividend. Education and employment will also likely feature as part of this enabling narrative.

Interestingly, the issue of water security is likely to be a serious concern. Not just because of its scarcity, volatility and potential to be leveraged for geopolitical purposes, but especially so because of its environmental impact. Both in terms of the effect global warming has on expanding desertification⁴ and the evaporation of natural sources of water⁵.

The topic will not only grab the attention of Middle Eastern countries, but should greatly concern the US, which comes second in the world after Saudi Arabia for production of desalinated water - ahead of the UAE in third place.

Alarmingly, not only is this expensive from an environmental point of view, but around 44% of the cost of desalinated water relates to the energy it takes to produce it⁶.

This creates a powerful opportunity to debate energy transition and explore remedies which are generally kinder to the planet. The obvious example here is nuclear and the benefits that Small Modular Reactors present in generating green electricity and decarbonising the production of fundamental resources, let alone those it offers to multiple energy intense industries.



⁴ [UN News](#) focus on the impact in the volatile Sahel region

⁵ National Geographic [Water Distribution on Earth](#)

⁶ According to information presented by Advisian

ADSW 2023 Key Event Calendar Summary

January	Event	Web Link	Location/Detail
14 – 15	IRENA Assembly	Here	St. Regis, Saadiyat Island
	Atlantic Council Energy Forum	Here	St. Regis, Abu Dhabi
16	Opening Ceremony	Here	ADNEC + Virtual, 10AM
	COP28 Strategy Announcement	N/A	
	Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony	Here	ADNEC, 10AM
	ADSW Summit	Here	ADNEC, 1PM-9PM
16 – 18	World Future Energy Summit	Here	ADNEC, 10AM-5PM
	Youth 4 Sustainability Hub	Here	ADNEC, 10AM-5PM
	Innovate	Here	ADNEC, 10AM-5PM
17	WiSER Forum	Here	ADNECD, 4PM-7.30PM, by invitation only
	UAE – UK Business Council	Here	ADNEC, time TBC
18	Green Hydrogen Summit and	Here	ADNEC, 10AM-5PM
	Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum	Here	Abu Dhabi Global Market, 10AM-5PM

For more detailed information about each event and a review of key speakers, please follow this [link](#).



ADSW – Key Milestones

2008	Inaugural World Future Energy Summit presented in Abu Dhabi, evolving to become the foundation of ADSW	 WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT
2009	The Zayed Future Energy Prize is held for the first time.	 ZAYED SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE
2010	Inaugural Assembly of the International Renewables Energy Agency (IRENA) held in Abu Dhabi	 IRENA International Renewable Energy Agency
2012	UN Secretary-General launched the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All during an address to the opening ceremony of WFES	 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
2013	ADSW welcomed the inaugural meeting of the International Water Summit (IWS) .	INTERNATIONAL WATER SUMMIT
2014	Hosted its first delegation of African Presidents (4)	
2015	Solar Impulse 2 , the Swiss long-range experimental solar-powered aircraft was put on display ahead of its round the world flight. Inaugural ' Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy' (WiSER) forum.	 
2017	Atlantic Council welcomed to ADSW programme at its first Global Energy Forum .	 Atlantic Council
2018	CLiX , "Climate Innovation Exchange", was launched	 CLiX CLIMATE INNOVATIONS EXCHANGE
2019	ADSW and the Zayed Future Energy Prize announced the evolution of their strategy to align more closely with the UAE Vision 2021 and the UN SDGs.	
2020	The Youth 4 Sustainability (Y4S) platform was officially launched. Masdar launched its Green Real Estate Investment Trust at the Sustainable Finance Forum	
2021	In response to the global pandemic, the 2021 edition of ADSW was held virtually .	
2022	The ADSW opening ceremony – held as part of Expo 2020 Dubai .	 إكسبو 2020 دبي DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



**TAQARABU HYBRID
COMMUNICATIONS**

DUBAI
502, Blue Bay Tower, Marasi Drive
Business Bay Dubai, UAE

+971 4 425 7967
info@thc.xyz

www.thc.xyz