

**MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE SECTION
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
DUBAI MUNICIPALITY**

WORLD WETLANDS DAY
February 6, 2009

Activity Report



Background

Every year, **February 2** is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens all over the world observe this historic milestone aimed in the conservation and wise use of all wetlands and their resources through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

This year's celebration stick on the theme – "UPSTREAM – DOWNSTREAM, Wetlands Connect Us All" which demonstrates the significance of wetlands and its interconnections with the environment around it particularly the river basins and to the lives of human being that depend on the resources therein. The objective was to heighten the awareness campaign about river basins and the consequences of human activities that impact on the downstream and upstream environment. And the core concern for World Wetlands Day 2009 focused on how to address the challenges of good management of the environment in the quest for sustainable development.

At the Dubai Municipality, the Marine Environment and Wildlife Section of the Department of Environment organized a chain of activities to manifest its earnest support in the worldwide campaign on the significance of Wetlands' protection and conservation.

Activities

The Marine Environment and Wildlife Section organized a demonstration of the section's routine tasks of environmental management and protection of the Dubai Creek.

Awareness

The Environment and Health Education Section circulated widely the awareness material of World Wetlands Day 09 through internet and DM intranet.

Boat Parade

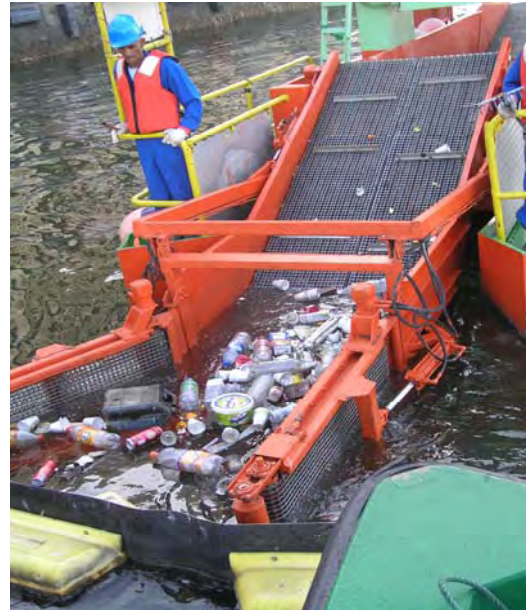
The celebration commenced at 4 PM by a procession of the municipality boats that ended up to the Shindagha Abra Ferry Station where the various demonstrations took place. In addition to the municipality boats, a floating restaurant courtesy of the owner, Mr. Farooq also participated in the parade.



The crowd assemble at the Dubai Creek bank as they watch the demonstration.

Demonstration of Cleaning Operation

In front of a huge number of crowd, the crew of the Marine Environment and Wildlife Section joined forces to demonstrate the cleaning operations and waste collection activities in the shoreline of Dubai Creek. Using their tools and equipment, the crew collected a load of



Using the boat skimmer and collecting tools, the Marine Environment and Wildlife Section crew demonstrate to the crowd the cleaning up of debris, junks and other wastes materials that mess up the Dubai Creek.

trash and rubbish that build up inside a boom reel that serves as barrier to flowing garbage. Also the crew displayed the boat skimmer in taking up debris, junks and other wastes materials that mess up at the Dubai Creek.

Water Quality Monitoring and Fisheries Management



Mr. Shadab displays in public the Hydrolab and other equipment used in monitoring water quality.

Using his tools and equipment, Mr. Sahdab showed to the crowd the step in collecting samples and how to conduct the test in determining water quality. On his presentation, he responded to queries and further gave details on the objectives and purpose of the day's activity. On the other hand, Dr. Kais made a hands-on presentation to some techniques on



Mr. Kais showcases the fisheries management techniques.

Media Coverage

The celebration was also covered with media through TV-7. The TV crew shot footages of the various activities and made an interview with the Head of Marine Environment and Wildlife Section, Mr. Mohammed AbdulRahman Hassan.

Posters Display

In addition to the demonstration activities, several posters of various sizes on wetland protection and Ramsar Convention were displayed in the area. Artworks were exhibited. A big banner on the World Wetlands Celebration was hanged at the wall of the floating restaurant.



Mr. Mohammed AbdulRahman Hassan, Head of Marine Environment and Wildlife Section responds to the interview by TV-7.



Poster Art exhibits