

Abu Dhabi asserts desire to be global clean energy hub

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Abu Dhabi : Abu Dhabi has asserted its ambition to transform itself into a clean energy hub.

Majid Al Mansouri, Secretary General of Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), said as much in an interview on NHK Channel One's news feature programme WorldNetwork yesterday. "Abu Dhabi has been working on [the] climate change issue as a member of [the] global community since we want to be a hub of clean energy in the world," he said.

NHK, or Japan Broadcasting Corporation, is Japan's sole public broadcaster. It launched its transmission from Dubai yesterday.

There is a growing interest worldwide about renewable energy and even the oil-rich Gulf countries are no exception to this quest for sustainable resources. The UAE, one of the biggest oil producers in the world, has been assiduously working towards this end of late.

Abu Dhabi's ambitious Mega project MASDAR, which means 'resource' in Arabic, has drawn attention the world over.

MASDAR, slated to be completed by 2015, will come up at a cost of \$22 billion (Dh80.8 billion).

Al Mansouri stressed the importance of projects such as MASDAR in any future scenario where oil resource could be used up. "Oil resource is not renewable, that is why we have invested lots in a renewable energy such as solar power."

Abu Dhabi was recently selected to host the headquarters of the IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency), successfully projecting itself as a development model well prepared to tackle global climate change and as a member of the international community supportive of the developing world's quest for clean energy.

NHK is the largest TV network in Asia and the new Dubai bureau has become its 30th overseas office. It has also become the NHK's fifth bureau in the Middle East following Cairo, occupied Jerusalem, Baghdad and Tehran.

NHK says it will enhance its coverage in the UAE, which is one of the biggest oil exporters to Japan, to engender a better understanding about the UAE and the region among Japanese audiences.

(Gulf News)