

DIAC highlights energy and water conservation measures at Smart Metering Middle East/Smart Grids Middle East 2009

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Dubai International Academic City today highlighted its key energy and water conservation measures at the Smart Metering Middle East and Smart Grids Middle East 2009 conferences in Dubai.

Dr Ayoub Kazim, Executive Director, Dubai International Academic City and Dubai Knowledge Village, outlined the cluster's compliance with TECOM Investments' Sustainable Development Policy and elaborated on its district cooling system, green landscaping, non-smoking policy in buildings, water conservation and recycling efforts, energy management initiatives, daylight access, and energy-efficient lighting measures deployed within DIAC.

The only executive forum for utilities in the Middle East region, the Smart Metering Middle East and Smart Grids Middle East 2009 conferences opened on 4 May and will run until 6 May, bringing together regional representatives from the utilities, government departments and municipalities, as well as regulators, academics and consultants.

Dr Ayoub Kazim, Executive Director, Dubai International Academic City and Dubai Knowledge Village.

The event provides the best opportunity for industry leaders to focus on issues relating to the development of smart metering and intelligent energy infrastructures for the region. Particular emphasis is also being placed on how utilities can leverage their meters for smart grid interoperability.

Dr Ayoub Kazim said:

'The energy and water conservation measures adopted at DIAC buildings with a current built-up area of 1.4m sq feet, reflect our profound commitment to evolving as a more environment friendly organization. Dubai International Academic City is committed to reducing carbon emissions, a fact underpinned by the implementation of a series of initiatives such as the water conservation programme and the phase out of halogen lamps.'

'The Smart Metering Middle East and Smart Grids Middle East conferences help assist all stakeholders to identify implementation strategies, opportunities and technology choices. It is serving as an ideal forum to showcase our sustainable initiatives, particularly the energy conservation measures that resulted in average monthly savings of 7% in 2008.'

Dr Kazim also highlighted other green features at DIAC Phase-III, including energy metering for various end users, de-lamping of offices, and reducing the lighting energy index from 21 W per square meter to 10 W per square meter that has led to a 52% reduction in power consumption.

Demonstrating the success of its water and energy conservation strategies, Phase-III of Dubai International Academic City has moved closer to obtaining the LEED certification following its completion of all necessary documentation procedures.

DIAC's Phase-III is a cluster of five buildings that has adopted several green building features. Based on current utility analysis, it is expected to be highly resource efficient and environment-friendly.

The buildings have adopted several energy conservation measures in design including heat recovery wheels, enhanced levels of insulation, optimization of fresh air through variable speed drives on air handling units, recessed windows, and significantly low lighting power densities.

The features will make the cluster 21.7% more energy efficient than the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 - 2004 standards.

DIAC Phase-III will also consume 30% less water than the standards set by US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) as well as 40% less irrigation water. The savings have been achieved by the installation of ultra-low flow water restrictions in wash basins and dual flush tanks in wash rooms.

The cluster also makes significant utilization of locally or regionally made products. The planting of cactus trees and 'ghaf', a local native tree that requires little or no irrigation or maintenance, as well as the use of additives in the soil for reducing water consumption to 50% and requiring lesser NPK fertilizers are also some of DIAC's vital landscaping initiatives.

The Dubai International Academic City currently hosts more than 30 reputed international universities of higher learning from diverse regions, including the US, the UK, Belgium, Iran, Russia, Australia, Sri Lanka, France, Pakistan and India, catering to the academic requirements of over 12,000 students.

(AME Info)