

Learning to Save Water

12 April 2009

ABU DHABI — The Formal Park on Abu Dhabi Corniche hosted a colourful and entertaining event aimed at creating public awareness on the importance of saving water.

More than 3,000 people and scores of curious onlookers attended the event, which was organised by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) in connection with the World Water Day 2009 under the theme 'Water is For All...Save It.'

The four-hour open-air event included interactive games and activities designed for adults and children on the core message that "eachone of us holds an individual responsibility to save water." Those programmes also taught them how to reducewater consumption.

Women, men and youth were made to 'Walk for Water', to draw attention to the pathetic plight of those tens of thousands of women in many African and Asian countries who still have to walk several kilometres to get their daily drinking water supplies.

A car wash competition with limited water supplied attracted a lot of people as well as the dish wash competitionfor women.

The water education corner for kids attracted the maximum number of people. Teachers from the Environment Educators forum TADPOLES (teachers of Abu Dhabi for protection of living environment) manned this corner.

A public display of 1.5 litres plastic water bottles, numbering about 377, was arranged to convey the message of how much water we use in one day.

The participating agencies including Abu Dhabi Municipality, Ministry of Environment and Water, Abu Dhabi Distribution Company, GASCO, Zayed University, Higher College of Technology and Abu Dhabi Sports Council had arranged booths to showcase their presentations. Skits, music and poetry recitals by students from different private and government schools were also part of the event.

Youth from the voluntary social programme "Onak ya watan" actively supported the conduct of the event.

A questionnaire on water consumption in UAE and the importance of such events in increasing their awareness was distributed to the public and responses will be later assessed by EAD.

Abu Dhabi water facts

- abu dhabi** Emirate has a record of low rainfall, less than 100mm.
- **75 per cent** of rain in UAE evaporates.
- **15 per cent** of the rainwater runs into the sea.
- **only 10 per cent** of rainwater is able to recharge our ground water.
- ground water** is the only source of fresh water in UAE.
- **one of the lowest** per capita fresh water availability.

- **we have no** rivers or lakes in the UAE

{ Khaleej Times }