



جامعة عجمان  
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



**17.2.4**

**Collaboration for SDG best practice**

Year 2023



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## 17.2.4 Collaboration for SDG best practice

Ajman University (AU) engages in international collaboration and research to review comparative approaches and develop best practices for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). AU shares its strategies and achievements in supporting the SDGs through online platforms and regularly participates in international forums and regional discussions to address global challenges related to these goals.

Examples of AU's collaboration for developing and sharing best practices are provided below:

### 1-AU collaborates internationally to contribute to and adopt sustainable practices.

It also develops, publishes, and implements various strategies, sharing best practices such as:

- [Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030](#)
- [Community Engagement Strategy 2022-2027](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Strategy](#)
- [Research Strategy](#)
- [Sustainability at Ajman University](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Ajman University COP28 UAE](#)
- [Carbon Emissions Reduction at AU](#)
- [Community Programs and Activities](#)
- [Sustainability Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Climate Change Learning Program](#)

### 2-CBA Becomes Founding Member of MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability

Dean Akinola Fadahunsi recently participated in the 6th International Conference on 'Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Impact' (ESI), held in Doha from October 17th-19th, 2023. During the conference, the MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability (MEBAS) was launched with AACSB's endorsement, bringing together 14 business schools from eight countries, including Ajman University, to promote sustainability in higher education. The launch was supported by both governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the State of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the ILO, PRIME Chapter Middle East, Gulf Sustain, and Qatar's Ministry of Municipality.



MEBAS aims to enhance sustainability by integrating it into academic curricula, fostering collaborative research, and driving community engagement initiatives. Dean Akinola highlighted the alliance's role in advancing the region's sustainability goals through shared knowledge and resources.

### 3-AU's partnered with the World Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) Summit in Dubai

Highlighting its commitment to sustainability and global best practices in ESG. AU's Sustainability Manager was one of the speakers at the Summit, presenting the '[Impact of ESG Standards on Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education Institutions.](#)' During the presentation, Ajman University was discussed as a case study, which highlighted AU's initiatives and best practices in following topics:

- ESG Frame work Applicability
- ESG Impact on Operations
- ESG Drivers
- ESG and Stakeholder Engagement
- Practical Examples on ESG and SDGs Achievement from Ajman University Experience

It also made emphasis on the impact in partnerships which include the following international collaborations:



Further information related to the international collaboration are accessible in the links below.

### 4-UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

AU joined the UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) in 2022, aligning with global efforts to integrate sustainability into education. HESI, led by UN DESA and the Sulitest Association, connects academia, research, and policy-making to promote sustainable development. Supported by prestigious partners like UNESCO, UNEP, and UN Academic Impact, HESI fosters collaboration, shares best practices, and highlights the vital role of higher education in driving sustainability.

### 5-United Nations' Environment Program Race to Net Zero for Universities

AU has joined the United Nations' Environment Program "Race to Zero" campaign, committing to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, with an interim target for 2030. This global initiative unites

universities, businesses, and cities in the fight against climate change, focusing on clean energy, sustainable jobs, and inclusive economic growth. Through its participation, Ajman University actively contributes to building a resilient, decarbonized future aligned with the campaign's ambitious climate goals.

#### 6-[Environment Center for Arab Towns \(ECAT\)](#)

The Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT), established by the Arab Town Organization in 2005, is dedicated to addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development across Arab cities. With a network of 50 cities and 138 experts, including Ajman University's Sustainability Manager, Ms. Maya Haddad, ECAT fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing through conferences and forums. ECAT also leads initiatives like the Green Ambassador Programme, which educates students on environmental stewardship, ensuring a sustainable future for Arab towns.

#### 7-["Nature Positive Alliance" with the University of Oxford and the UN Environment Program \(UNEP\)](#)

AU joined this global effort during COP15, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability by integrating environmental stewardship into its operations and fostering a culture of responsibility. This alliance focuses on combating climate change and biodiversity loss, positioning universities as leaders in building a nature-positive future.

The Nature Positive Universities Alliance, launched by UNEP, the University of Oxford, and 577 universities worldwide, aims to transform how academic institutions address environmental challenges. This initiative encourages universities to implement campus sustainability audits, adopt eco-friendly practices, restore habitats, and support student-led advocacy through the Nature Positive Student Ambassadors program.

#### 8-[AU is a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network \(ISCN\)](#)

Making it the first university in the UAE and the second in the MENA region to receive this distinction. This recognition highlights AU's commitment to integrating sustainability into its core operations, placing it alongside renowned institutions like Harvard and MIT.

As an ISCN member, AU can demonstrate its commitment to sustainability, collaborate with global experts, connect with fellow members during events, and share best practices through the ISCN website, newsletter, and social media. Key benefits include:

- **Global Recognition:** AU's ISCN membership showcases its dedication to sustainability, enhancing its reputation and attracting eco-conscious students, faculty, and partners.
- **Expert Collaboration:** The ISCN network offers opportunities to collaborate with leading universities and professionals, fostering knowledge sharing and joint research.
- **Exclusive Events:** Membership provides access to ISCN conferences, workshops, and events, enabling AU to stay updated on global sustainability trends.
- **Platform for Sharing:** AU can showcase its sustainability initiatives and learn from others via the ISCN's digital platforms.

#### 9-[ISCN Biodiversity Community of Practice](#)

AU is a proud participant in the Biodiversity Community of Practice, joining forces with prestigious institutions such as Harvard University, ETH Zurich, Freie Universität Berlin, Yale University, The University of Melbourne, and The University of British Columbia, among others. This global collaboration



of higher education institutions is dedicated to biodiversity conservation and restoration through shared research, knowledge exchange, and best practices. By aligning with these world-renowned universities, AU is strengthening its efforts to integrate biodiversity into its operations, research, and community engagement, reinforcing its commitment to global sustainability leadership.

## 10- ISCN Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice

AU is an active participant in the Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice, a network of higher education institutions dedicated to integrating sustainability into governance and leadership structures. This initiative emphasizes embedding sustainability in decision-making, policies, and leadership to promote long-term, impactful change. By collaborating with other members, Ajman University exchanges strategies for engaging leadership, stakeholders, and building governance models that drive sustainability across all institutional levels. Participation in this community highlights Ajman University's commitment to becoming a leader in sustainable development, aligning its efforts with global best practices.

## 11-AU joined the COP28 Universities Climate Network (UCN):

AU Students formally joined the COP28 Universities Climate Network (UCN). The UCN is a network of UAE-based universities and higher education institutions working together to mobilize youth and academia in the lead-up to COP28. AU's participation in the UCN demonstrates its commitment to inclusion and to creating an environment where young people can lead the fight against climate change. As an integral part of the Universities Climate Network, AU participated in joint activities aimed at mobilizing young people via relevant discussions and projects.

This involves giving young people a forum to express themselves and actively engage in conversations that impact climate policies. The UCN has also thematic working groups focused on different disciplines and concepts, and AU students led the Green Job Skills Thematic Working Group under the guided by the Office of Sustainability at AU. This commitment is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, particularly SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 17 on collaboration for the goals. The commitment of AU to these SDGs highlights its position as a proactive force in influencing climate



legislation and developing international collaboration in the fight against climate change.

## 12- Ajman University, WWF International, and Emirates Nature-WWF Announce Progress on the Global Islamic Finance Program (GIFP) to Mobilize Islamic Capital for Climate, Nature and Development

The Global Islamic Finance Program (GIFP) is forming a unique consortium comprising multilateral organizations, financial institutions, impact managers, advisors, government and non-governmental partners from across the MENA region and Asia. The consortium includes prominent stakeholders such as WWF International, Ajman University, HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Securities Commission Malaysia, and Simmons & Simmons. This diverse group aims to scale up blended finance initiatives and integrate Islamic finance to support climate, nature, and development projects, particularly in the Global South. The consortium is focused on mobilizing Islamic capital to fund Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and help address the critical financing gap for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.



## 13- Amal Alkarbi '16 Leads Inclusive Climate Session at COP28

In a significant session at COP28, Amal Alkarbi, General Coordinator at Emirates Autism Society and a distinguished alumna of Ajman University, emphasized the vital connection between autism and climate action. Her presentation highlighted the need for inclusive solutions in climate initiatives that consider individuals with autism. The event also featured active participation from students and volunteers from the Office of Sustainability, showcasing Ajman University's commitment to sustainability and inclusivity. This involvement reinforces the university's role as a forward-thinking educational institution addressing global environmental challenges.

## 14- AU College of Business Administration Explores Exciting Collaboration with Eastern Michigan University: A New Horizon for Students

AU's College of Business Administration is exploring a 2 + 2 program with Eastern Michigan University. Antony's recent visit highlighted the importance of this partnership in enhancing academic opportunities and addressing students' cultural needs. Key discussions included support from the Islamic Centre of Ann Arbor, which offers a welcoming environment and resources, particularly benefiting female students. This collaboration underscores AU's commitment to global recognition and fostering supportive, inclusive environments for women.

