

Call for Abstracts

World Environmental Education Congress

Connecting People Creating Tomorrow

Under the Patronage of



ديـــوان هــهـــثــل الــحــاكــم RULER'S REPRESENTATIVE COURT AL DHAFRAH REGION منطقة الظفرة

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Congress Organisers

هــــبئة الــبيئــة - أبـوظـــــــي Environment Agency - ABU DHAB World Environmental Education Congress Network

www.weec2024.org

Abu Dhabi welcomes the 12th WEEC

We are delighted to invite you to the 12th World Environmental Education Congress.

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Welcome Message



H.E. Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri

Secretary General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

I would like to express my happiness in announcing the selection of the United Arab Emirates to host the twelfth round of the World Environmental Education Congress in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2024. This event will be held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Western Region of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), with the theme "Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow."

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Organising Committee of WEEC for selecting the UAE. We are so honoured that an event as important as WEEC will be on our home soil, and we will work around the clock to ensure that it is a great success and platform for positive change. I am confident that the UAE, with its advanced and distinguished capabilities, will be able to make this important conference a success and achieve its desired goals. We will strive to support efforts to exchange knowledge and dialogue between specialists and those who are interested in the field of environmental education, from individuals, institutions, networks and alliances.

WEEC is a unique event bringing together youth, specialists and professionals dedicated to environmental education. We all know that instigating change in communities to adopt environmentally friendly behaviour is only possible through rigorous environmental education.

We are fortunate in our day and age that governments have started adopting strategies to place the environment very high up on the national agenda. We are also lucky that more individuals in society are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of saving the planet - especially our children.

But we still have a long way to go, and that is why events like WEEC are critical as a sounding board to ensure that environmental education continues across all countries.

The UAE is a country that values the environment greatly, and our leadership provides us with unconditional support so that all environmentalists and organisations can achieve their goals-especially as a woman. And that is why I am very proud to be an Emirati woman working in the field of environment. There are more women joining the field, and I know that several of them in my team decided to pursue this career path because they were inspired through environmental education. This reflects its importance and the only way we can empower the upcoming generations to become advocates and ambassadors for the environment, is by proving them immense access to more knowledge.

In Abu Dhabi, through EAD we have more than 20 years experience in environmental education. We first started in 1999 with our very first Nature Bus and today, EAD is implementing many pioneering environmental awareness programmes in more than 85 % of public and private schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Throughout the past years, we have received many prestigious awards in recognition and appreciation for our distinguished efforts and innovative programmes in the field of environmental awareness.

On a final note, I invite you all to Abu Dhabi to participate in WEEC in 2024. We await you with open arms and our hearts and minds. We aim to continue the legacy of WEEC, which brings together likeminded individuals who play a very significant role when it comes to environmental education.

Welcome Message



Prof. Mario Salomone

WEEC Network Secretary-General

Dear friends from any part of the Earth,

Our international network is pleased to engage in the journey towards a new global meeting jointly with the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, the Middle East's largest environmental regulator.

With the 12th WEEC, we also conclude the celebrations of another vital stage: the twenty years since the first congress held in Portugal in 2003. A couple of decades ago, a path started.

"Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow" is the title of the congress in 2024. But "Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow" is not only an attractive title. It is our aim; it is the very reason why we work. "Connecting people" means building the worldwide community of destiny for sustainable living on the Earth, our common home. "Creating tomorrow" is the main task of education, and all education is - or should be - an environmental education.

Environmental education has a mission: the mission to make all education (formal or non-formal) "sustainable" and to pursue a thorough "greenery", the mission to enable advocacy, citizenship, and activism. All over the world, at all ages, people can learn something new, discover new and more creative ideas, and decide on a new lifestyle.

We create the future and invent a better world that is a social and joint undertaking: it happens thanks to a more profound knowledge about the interconnections among all people and our interdependence with nature. According to an early definition of the EE (in 1969), every citizen, thanks to the EE, knows it deep in his/her heart and bones, the simple facts that he/she is dependent on his/her environment, that he/she is affected by the environment, and that he/she affects his/her environment. This is the first step. The second is to live and cooperate in brotherhood/sisterhood with all humans and "Gaia" (J. Lovelock), our mother Earth.

So "Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow" is not only a fascinating title. It is a choice. It is a program.

I encourage all researchers, educators, practitioners, and activists worldwide to accept - for winning it - this crucial challenge of connecting people and creating tomorrow.

I wish to have the 12th Congress in Abu Dhabi as a significant lap of the long journey I just said, as a sweet new fruit to add to the tree of the worldwide community of practice and research in environmental education. Tools, expertise, and heritage of the WEEC network are at your disposal.

Stay in touch, commit yourselves to improving the network, enhancing the environmental education community, and reaching the stage of 2024 more competent and resourceful.

My warmest wishes and greetings, and see you in Abu Dhabi for the 12th World Environmental **Education Congress!**

Thank you



International Organising Committee

"To view the bios please visit the website."



Prof. Mario Salomone Secretary General WEEC-NETWORK



Bianca la Placa Senior Executive Manager WEEC-NETWORK



Stefania Fontana Programme Coordinator WEEC-NETWORK

Local Organising Committee

"To view the bios please visit the website."



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Dr Richard Perry Advisor to the Local Organising Committee



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Gayatri Raghwa Advisor to the Local Organising Committee



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Dr Sahar Saad Shar Al Ghamdi Supervisor of Headquarter Laboratory of Analytic Chemistry Ministry Environment, Water and Agriculture



Prof. Tina Sleiman Associate Professor Zayed University



Welcome to the host city for 12th World Environmental Education Congress where there is so much to explore and enjoy.

Congress Themes

"Connecting People, Creating Tomorrow"

WEEC 2024 reaffirms that Environmental Education (EE) provides the basis for humanity's transformation towards a sustainable world.

The World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) network and the Government of Abu Dhabi, UAE, invite educators from formal and nonformal education, locally and internationally, NGOs, governments, youth and academia, to discuss, evaluate, and energise environmental education - to connect people to create a better tomorrow for all of us and the living world.

WEEC 2024 seeks to facilitate the exchange of ideas, to advance progress towards a sustainable, resilient, and adaptable future. The event will encourage exploratory dialogue on the different dimensions involved in EE (educational, ethical, economic, political, *etc.*) to facilitate progress in this future.

Whilst the organisers have developed a suite of themes we welcome suggestions on priority ideas, challenges, from the world's environmental educators until the close of abstract submissions, on the 30th of June, 2023.



Theme 2

Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Environmental Education

- O How to communicate issues arising from the Water-Energy-Food Nexus to educate and involve people? There is no healthy food without a healthy environment and, by extension, no healthy economy. How can we educate about water, energy, and food issues through a nexus lens?
- O How to measure the level of awareness of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus and public support in a specific region and what is the public attitudes among this region regarding this issue.
- O Understanding innovative initiatives for governing Water-Energy-Food Nexus in cities.

Theme 1

Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis: Climate Change; Pollution and Biodiversity Loss

- O Best practices and experiences related to EE in protecting ecosystems and natural resources, including biodiversity, fragile ecosystems, climate change, pollution, preserving the soil and combating desertification, cultural diversity, *etc.*
- O Innovative EE proposals with a transformative perspective that critically analyse the actual socioeconomic model from ethical, social, economic, and environmental dimensions by addressing issues related to lifestyles, production of goods and their consumption and seeking solutions for the future.





Theme 3

A Worldwide Community for Sustainability as the Goal

- O How the EE community integrates this whole transversal approach to create a lasting impact and minimise our footprint.
- O How EE can promote global citizenship through collaborative networks, online learning communities.
- O Good practices in EE collaboration between different countries, socioeconomic contexts, cultures, *etc.*, that favour the exchange of experiences and the valuation of differences.
- O Building networks to scale up community efforts into effective change.

Theme 4

Promoting Collaboration and Learning Communities to Address Socio-environmental Challenges

- O Studies on how crises affect communities, opportunities for mitigation and adaptation from EE. The experiences and role of EE learning communities. The role of learning communities during crises such as "Covid-19", how are societies affected and how do they adapt?
- O Examples of government agencies and communities working together in tackling sustainability crises.
- O The role of citizen science in the field of EE. Good practices in the transfer of knowledge to society.
- O Sustaining and improving learning communities to serve EE.





Theme 6

Efforts and Challenges in EE for Early Childhood Education

- O Environmental awareness in early childhood: role of teachers & educators.
- O Curricula and approaches to enhance environmental education in early childhood
- O New tools and approaches towards enhancing early childhood education.
- O Experiences and best practices of EE in early childhood (formal and informal education).
- O Learning mechanisms and engaging children with special needs and learning disabilities at early childhood EE.

Theme 5

Outdoor and Place-based Learning in the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

- O Examples of outdoor and place-based learning.
- O The effects of contact with nature during outdoor EE on student's well-being.
- O The nature of outdoor based learning (nature-based or place-integrated experiences) in a world that has contended with crisis such as COVID-19.





Theme 7

Aesthetics, Ethics and Emotional Dimensions: The Role of Art and Design in EE

- O Researchers, educators, artists, and experts to share their reflexive experiences in terms of rising knowledge and sensitivity of the environment and environmental challenges.
- O Innovative proposals that include art and design activities as critical elements of their experiences.
- O The contribution of art and design in developing skills to identify and help resolve environmental challenges.
- O Ways that art can be used to increase integrated and international participation in activities that lead to the EE.





Theme 10

Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future

- O Addressing SDGs in the field of EE: debates, critical reflections, and experiences. EE innovative proposals in university education around sustainability.
- O Critical analyses of EE research, shedding light on research trends, approaches to diversity, and effectiveness of educational proposals.
- O Experiences of good practices in teaching from around the world on integrating, scaling up, and sustaining environmental education to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

Theme 8

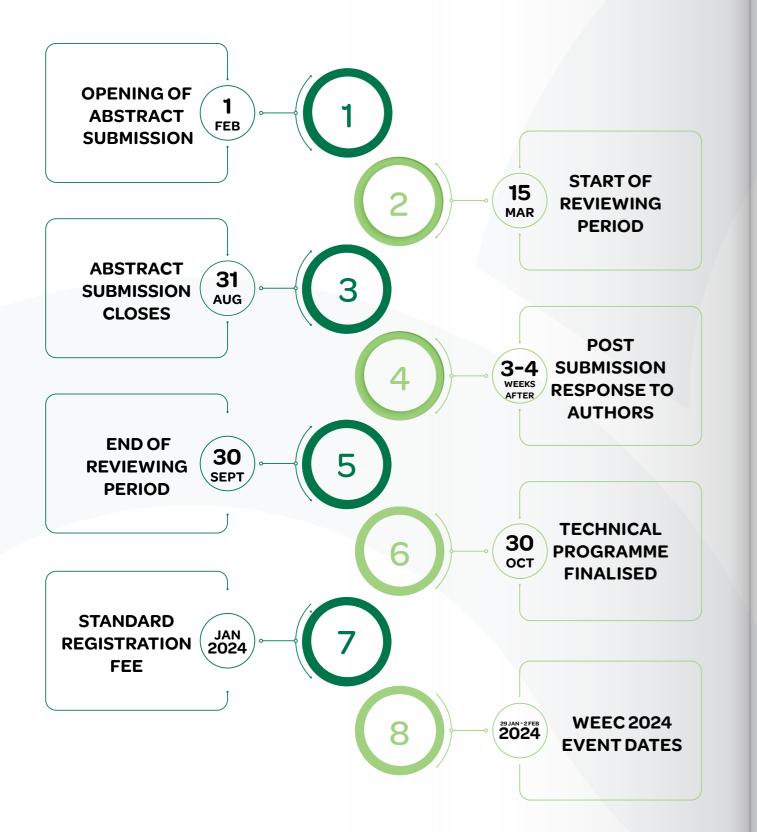
Theme 9

Artificial Intelligence and Smart Technologies

- O Opportunities and challenges in using AI, virtual reality, and smart technologies. The use of geospatial technologies in EE.
- O The effectiveness of smart technologies in citizen science & EE.
- O The role of mass media and digital technologies (radio, television & journalism) in EE. Effectiveness of social media as a tool.
- O The socio-ecological issues related to the intensive use of smart technologies: impacts related to exploitation of rare metals, energy consumption, waste management, human health, social inequities.
- O How artificial intelligence and smart technology transforms environmental education.
- O The role of smart technology of providing access to EE for students with special needs.



Important Dates 2023



Main Programme

The five-day programme for the 12th World Environmental Education Congress taking place from the 29th of January to the 2nd of February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, is currently being planned by the local and international socio-scientific committees. The main programme will be published late 2023.

The opening and closing addresses, plenary sessions, panel discussions, youth programme and parallel sessions are being prepared around the themes that have been defined for WEEC 2024.

Topics will enable everyone working in education for environment and sustainable development, or who has an interest in the field, to learn more about the latest in environmental and sustainability education.



Youth Environment Education Conference (YEEC)

Youth are important to us and for building the future. This is why we have integrated them into WEEC programmes and dedicated a special programme for youth!

The Youth Environmental Education Conference, which runs parallel and is mainstreamed to the World Environmental Education Congress, is a platform that provides opportunities to engage youth in Environmental Education, and articulate their thoughts, challenges, address their interests, concerns, and goals.

Additionally, YEEC provide opportunities for youth to engage with practitioners in the design, process and implementation of Environmental Education initiatives and programmes.

Youth will have the chance to speak their minds, build knowledge, network with international fellow youth and learn from each other.

Furthermore, youth will have the chance to be seated at the table and discuss insights, recommendations, and the way forward in the Environmental Education Field.

Youth will also get the chance to fulfil their curiosity by learning about Abu Dhabi nature, visiting some of its best nature sites, and experiencing local attributes of Abu Dhabi, during the most pleasant season of the year.



Programme Agenda

Surrounding the main programme for WEEC 2024, to be published late 2023, will be the variety of different events that make the WEEC congresses so special.

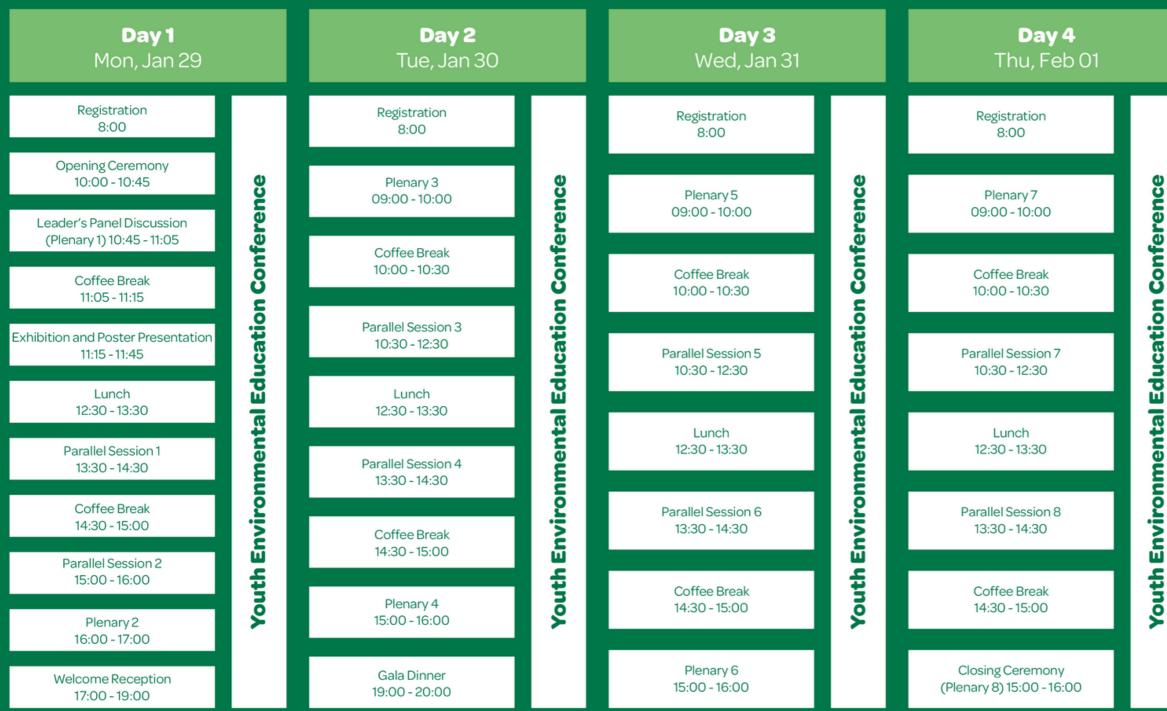
The opening and closing ceremonies, welcome reception and networking dinner. Crosscutting dialogues, discussions of smaller and engaged groups of participants, that link various stakeholders to promote their cooperation and communication to achieve positive change in our field.

Field sessions that build a bridge between the theory and the practice, serving as case studies for particular topics discussed during the workshop-style sessions.

Field excursions to some of the most beautiful and interesting places in Abu Dhabi. Side events that take the opportunity of the 12th WEEC congress to enable delegates to discuss, share knowledge and show the latest in education for the environment and sustainable development.



PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE





المؤتمر العالمى الثانى عشر للتربية البيئية التواصل بين الشعوب - صناعة الغد

Day 5 Fri, Feb 02

Education **Field Trips** (8:30 - 17:00)

Why Submit?

The Congress aims to build bridges between:

- Different approaches to environmental education and education for sustainable development
- Researchers and practitioners around the world
- Formal, non-formal, informal, and community education
- National strategies in environmental education
- Youth insights to create tomorrow.

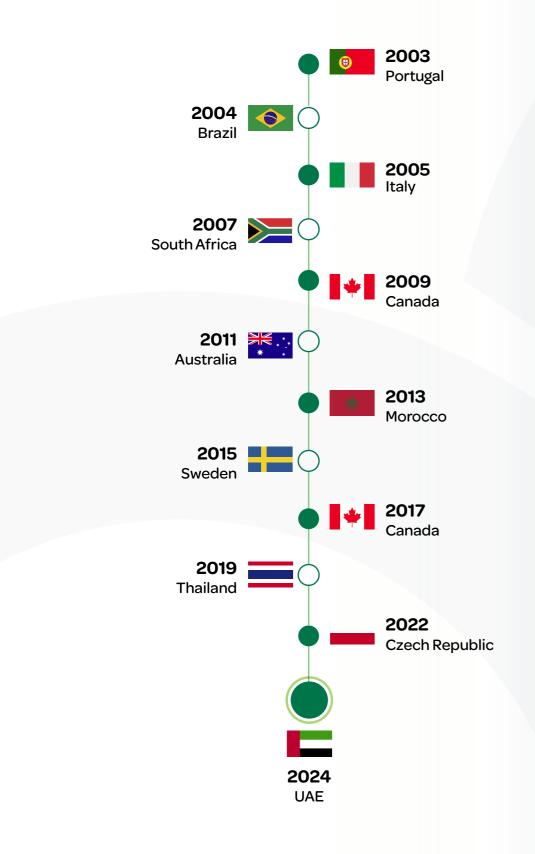
The Congress will discuss the role and importance of education for environment and sustainability at all levels; within formal, non-formal, and informal education.

Additionally, more than the two main categories of abstracts can be submitted: not only academic abstracts and practitioner abstracts, for example describing a teaching model sample focussing on environment and sustainability, but also other types/formats of abstract, such as novel, short fiction, stage performance, game, and interactive activities regarding and representative of environmental education and sustainability are accepted.





History of WEEC Congresses



Abstract Submission Guidelines

The WEEC 2024 Scientific and Organising Committee welcome the submission of original contributions to be presented at the Congress in the Parallel Sessions or in the Field Sessions.

Structure of submission

Please, respect the recommended structure for submitting your abstract. Name/s and Affiliation/s: First name and surname, e-mail address, the correct name of the affiliation and department of each author

Title: maximum of 40 words / 200 characters (including blanks and punctuation) Abstract: maximum of 500 words / 3 000 characteristics (including blanks and punctuation) divided into the following parts:

For research-oriented, conceptual, and theoretical research presentations:

- Introduction
- Research questions
- Method
- Findings
- Conclusion & recommendations for theory and practice and possible references

For practice-oriented presentations

Field sessions, and sharing experience (particularly, presentations building a bridge between theory and practice, e.g. assessing a programme from the perspective of the relevant theoretical framework, evaluation research, or critical perspective, are welcome):

Introduction

- The goals of the programme
- Programme description
- Experience and evaluation
- Conclusion & recommendations for theory and practice and possible references

*Title, authors' names and affiliations are not included in the word count

Keywords: 3-5 **Optional Image:** A maximum of one image can be included with the following criteria: Allowed file type: gif, jpg, png

Languages: Abstracts and presentations must be in English, Arabic, Spanish or French

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Submission System

Abstracts may only be submitted using the online system. Submissions sent in any other way (post, email, *etc.*) will not be accepted.

To upload your submission, first register with your details. All future communication will be done with the registered author.

Submission link: https://weec2024-call-for-abstracts.cfp.lineup.ninja/respond/74d0c1ec-18e9-468a-a9dc-bc5d35418a33/cfp/6885cc47-c351-4bc2-9f76-fffd88ec0d78

You will be assigned a User ID and password: use your credentials to log in the online system and select "Submit an Abstract – Parallel Sessions".

Insert the required data (names, affiliations, title, body, *etc.*) and click on Next at the bottom of each page, then click on Save at the bottom of the last page to save your submission. You will receive the confirmation that everything has been successfully submitted.

If suggested by the Scientific Committee, you will be able to edit your submission at any moment until the abstracts submission deadline by accessing the online system with your credentials. Abstract submission deadline is August 31st, at time.

After this deadline, it will not be possible to submit new abstracts and/or edit previous submissions.

Please submit your abstract in advance of the deadline to avoid potential system overload on the last days.

Each registered participant may submit a maximum of 2 abstracts as the presenting author. No author may present more than 2 submissions.

Abstracts will be published, unedited, as submitted.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Parallel Sessions

The submission for Parallel Sessions is open for on site presentation, depending on the presentation format.

Formats allowed for on site

- Oral communication
- Pecha Kucha
- Paper Poster
- Round Table
- Workshop
- Symposium

Themes and Presentation Format

Please visit the Themes page for the complete description of the topics.

Choose only one theme for your submission, considering the impact of your choice on the reviewing process (see review criteria below).

Select only one presentation format for your submission, considering that for some of the themes, only some of the presentation formats are acceptable.

Please, note that submissions may be re-assigned to other presentation formats by the Scientific Committee, due to time or other constraints.

Individual Submission

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Oral communication (only on-site)

· A 15-minute oral presentation highlights the main themes of the research, viewpoint, or educational project. The presentations will be grouped in sessions, in which a 15-minute interactive period of discussion will follow up after three presentations.

Group Submission

Workshop (only on-site)

 60-minute workshop sessions are organised by a team of facilitators responsible for the content and the dynamics of the interactive activity. Participants will be invited to explore an issue (or specific challenge, research question), contribute to the construction of a joint project, experiment with a pedagogical strategy/teaching format, or carry out other collaborative, experiential activities. A brief overview of the issue and objectives will be presented, after which the major part of the workshop will be devoted to participatory and active learning techniques to enable participants to bring their contributions to the table.

Symposium (only on-site)

Symposia are 90-minutes panel discussions presenting different perspectives on a topic or question related to one of the themes. Panels must include a moderator (suggested by the proposer) and at least three to a maximum of four panellists representing different organisations, ideas, or experiences. The symposia are submitted as a single document with the names of all the proposers (indicate the moderator as the first author).

Abstract Submission Guidelines

The submissions for Parallel Sessions will be reviewed by two independent reviewers. Following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- · Relevance. How well the submission fits the aims of the theme? How well it corresponds with the main theme of Congress, i.e. "building bridges" between the theory and practice, among different stakeholders, approaches, etc.? This should be clear in the Introduction.
- · Background quality. Does the proposal present a clear rationale for the study? How well the submission introduces the relevant theoretical background of the research, programme, or interactive activity (for workshops)? This should be detailed in the Introduction, Research question, or Purpose sections.
- Methodology / Programme theory. Is the research based on a clear and sound research method? Do the research context, methods, design, and applied procedure align with the research question/ problem? Are the limitations made clear and explicit? Does the proposal clarify the approach for developing the argument? Is the theoretical grounding or relation to the theory made clear? Is the programme theory well described and is then presented a programme based on sound instructional approach? Is the interactive activity theoretically grounded? What methods and steps will be included in the workshop structure?
- · Findings / Experience. Are the research findings supported by data? Are the claims of a field experience supported by rigorous evaluation? Do the data presented to align with the research questions/problem? Are the interpretations supported by the data? Are potential findings of the interactive activity formulated?
- · Benefit for the field/ Contribution. Does the submission articulate how its conclusions and recommendations could be beneficial for Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development theory or practice? What is the relevance of the proposal to the major theme of the conference and the educational community?

Review criteria and Evaluation

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Acceptance or Rejection Notification:

A notification about the acceptance/rejection of the submission will be sent to the registered author's e-mail address in three months after the submission.

A notification about the accepted presentation format and session's details will be sent to the registered author's e-mail address.

All accepted submissions will be published in the Scientific Programme and the Abstract Book, available on the Congress website.

The presenting author/s of the accepted abstract/s must register for the Congress before September 30th. All presenting author/s of the accepted abstract/s can benefit from the early bird registration fee if the abstract is submitted by August 31st.

Abstracts whose presenting author/s is/are not registered will be withdrawn by default and thus will not be included in the Scientific Programme or the Abstract Book.

If the presenting author/s of an accepted submission is/are unable to attend the Congress, the abstract must be withdrawn.

The Scientific Committee reserves the right to inform the institution/association/company of registered participants who do not attend the Congress to present their submission.

The Scientific Committee and the Local Organising Committee also welcome proposals for the NGO forum and other side events.

Venue

Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) is a multi-award winning venue providing outstanding facilities.

ADNEC is one of the most accessible venues in the world, situated proudly in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, named the safest city in the world for the past five years.

The venue for 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), ADNEC provides outstanding facilities spread over a total space of 151 000 square metres.

These facilities include versatile spaces suitable for up to 6 000 people, 12 exhibition halls, a stunning banqueting facility. A complete venue solution, ADNEC also boasts a range of restaurants, cafés, shops, business facilities and six on-site hotels offering 800+ rooms.

ADNEC is just 15 minutes away from Abu Dhabi International Airport and only 20 minutes from the buzz of downtown.

ADNEC website: https://www.adnec.ae/en

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12th World Environmental Education Congress



For more inquiries, please contact

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www.weec2024.org



