



Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation

In collaboration with

UAE University & ICBA

Organize

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL DATE PALM CONFERENCE

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

19 – 21 March, 2018

(Save the date!)



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I. Introduction

Under the leadership of H.H. The President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, there are continual efforts to increase UAE date palm productivity, to make better use of the date palm industry and to produce an agricultural leap that will change the face of the UAE desert. Indeed, the Sixth International Date Palm Conference illustrates the special attention and priority given by His Highness to this important economic sector. The present conference is the sixth one in a series of international conferences organized by UAE during the last 20 years (March 08 –10, 1998, March 25 – 27, 2001, 19 – 21 February 2006, 15 – 17 March, 2010, and 16 – 18 March, 2014). Date palm scientists, experts, and senior officials from around the world will be able to exchange their know-how and experiences. The Honorable Ministers of Agriculture of the GCC member states will be invited to attend the conference in order to disseminate the up-to-date knowledge and recommendations at the official level.

II. Objectives

- Serve as a platform for emerging scientific and commercial knowledge as well as current/future challenges regionally and globally in date palm production, propagation, protection and marketing.
- Render opportunity for sharing novel developments aimed at enhancing date palm production and exploiting its multitude utility.
- Provide a venue for research and industrial collaboration that will potentially lead to strengthening the commercial value of this highly nutritious crop.

III. Conference Theme

New Dimensions and Challenges for Sustainable Date Palm Production.

IV. Conference Special Features

A variety of features will make this Conference attractive and innovative:

- Internationally renowned speakers of the highest calibre,
- Senior officials from different date palm growing countries,
- Wide range of scientific subjects related to all aspects of date Palm Production,
- Scientific input from many countries of the world,
- Innovative approach to scientific sessions,
- Well-Organized exhibition,
- Tours visiting various sites of technical or tourist interest around United Arab Emirates,
- Beautiful country with hospitable and friendly people,
- Excellent weather during this time of the year.

V. Proposed Duration & Venue

Duration: Monday – Wednesday 19 - 21 March 2018.

Venue: The Conference will be held in Abu Dhabi City at Emirates Palace Hotel.
<http://www.kempinski.com/en/abudhabi/>

VI. Content

- Current Status of Date Palm Cultivation in the World,
- Molecular, genetic engineering and biotechnology,
- Germplasm,
- Propagation,
- Cultural Practices,
- Pests and Diseases Management,
- Post Harvest and Processing Technologies,
- Nutrition and Health
- Economics and Marketing,
- Additionally, the conference will have brief invited presentations from the winners of the 2017 & 2018 Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation.
- N.B: Several round tables and brainstorming meetings will be organized.

VII. Who Should Attend

The Sixth International Date Palm Conference is open to all people interested in date palm industries. The conference provides a forum for updating on current issue importance to this industry as well as information on new products and services. Participants will be from the public and private sectors who deal with the aspects of the date palm from producers through consumers all around the world.

Examples of the participants are:

- Date Palm Growers
- Executive Management of Grower Organizations
- Market Managers and International Traders
- Scientists of all aspects of Dates and Date Palm Cultivation
- Government Agencies and Departments
- Specialized Research and Development Centers
- Processors and Agro-industrialists
- Suppliers of Packages, Transport Operators, Chemicals, Fertilizers, Planting Material, Farm Equipment and Requisites
- Nutrition and Health Specialists
- Biotechnologists, Regulators and Consumers.

VIII. Booths

The following booths will be organized during the Conference:

1. Date palm photo gallery with pictures and photos of the organized International competition.
2. Date products and by-products.
3. Date palm Extension Program illustrating modern cultural practices.
4. Control of the Red Palm Weevil.
5. Date palm research program in various fields.
6. National handicrafts made from date palm leaves and other by-products.
7. Modern agricultural machinery dealing with date palm cultivation.
8. Date palm tissue culture propagation.
9. Date palms and food security.
10. Date palm poetry competition.

IX. Conference Committees

■ High Committee

H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development and President of Award's Board of Trustees.

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs, KIADPAI General Secretary, Chair Organizing Committee.

Dr. Helal Humaid Saed Al Kaabi, Member of the Award's Board of Trustees, Head of the Award's Financial and Administrative Division.

■ Scientific Committee

Prof. Ghaleb Ali Alhadrami, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, Chair Scientific Committee.
Prof. Bhanu Chowdhary, CFA, UAEU.
Prof. Franz Hoffmann, USA, KIADPAI.
Prof. Harrison Hughes, USA, KIADPAI.
Prof. Yvon Martel, Canada, KIADPAI.
Prof. Jose Ignacio Cubero, Spain, KIADPAI.
Dr. Samir Al Shakir, Iraq, KIADPAI.
Dr. Ibrahim Saqer Muslim, KSA, KIADPAI.
Dr. Fatima M. Al-Ansari, UAE, KIADPAI.
Dr. Mukarram Belhaj Faraj UAE, ICBA.
Dr. Mohammed Abdul Muhsen Salem, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Ayesha Aldhaheri, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Carine Platat, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Abdul Jaleel Cheruth, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Sajed Maqsood, CFA, UAEU.

■ Organizing Committee

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs, KIADPAI General Secretary, Chair Organizing Committee.
Dr. Aisha Abushelaibi, UAEU.
Dr. Ahmed Hussein, UAEU.
Dr. Shyam S. Kurup, UAEU.
Dr. Tariq Chfadi, UAEU.
Mr. Ghazi Jawad Aljabri, ICBA.
Mr. Ahed Abdul Halim Karkouti, KIADPAI.
Mr. Tag Elsir Musa, KIADPAI.
Ms. Esra Ali Shatnawi, KIADPAI.
Ms. Yasmine Ali Alantari, KIADPAI.
Mr. Wazef Al Zeydani, UAEU.
Mr. Roger Francis, UAEU
Ms. Emily Shea Dunn, UAEU
Mr. Salem Al Kaabi, UAEU.
Mr. Jassim Al Harmoudi, UAEU
Mr. Abdul Rasheed Ezhikkottayil, UAEU.
Mr. Jihad Khalil, UAEU.
Mr. Ali Mohamed Fadil, UAEU.
Mr. Taj Elsir Mohamed, UAEU.

X. Language of the Conference

Arabic and English.

XI. Post Conference Tours

- The Emirates Date Factory - Al Saad / Al Foah.
- Al Ain Date Oasis
- UAE University and Date Palm Tissue Culture Laboratory
- Other important sites and historic places.

The participation in these post conference tours will be on a voluntary basis and will take a full day (Thursday 22 March, 2018).

XII. Conference Sponsors

- **United Arab Emirates**
 - Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation (KIADPAI).
 - UAE University (UAEU)
 - International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).
 - Date Palm Friends Society (DPFS)
- **Date Palm Global Network**
- **and other Organizations to be announced.**

XIII. Host Country

- **UAE / Abu Dhabi Emirates:** The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates, each with its own unique character and personality but yet united with a common goal and destiny. Abu Dhabi is one of the most modern cities in the world. It is the center of government and business life in the UAE and is the largest of the seven Emirates. The architecture of its modern buildings and sky scrapers is the finest in the Middle East. Large gardens and parks, green boulevards lining all the streets and roads, sophisticated high-rise buildings, state-of-the-art communication services and transport, the presence of all the international luxury hotel chains, rich shopping malls, cultural centers and events provide tourists a one-of-a-kind experience all the year round. Abu Dhabi stretches south to the oases of Liwa where some of the world's largest sand dunes can be found, and east to the ancient oasis of Al Ain. This makes Abu Dhabi the largest as well as the most populated of all the Emirates. The official religion of the UAE is Islam, but other faiths are tolerated and freedom of worship privately is given.
- **Language:** The official language of the UAE is Arabic. Other languages spoken are English, Hindi and Farsi.
- **Currency:** The UAE currency is called the Dirham. Arab Emirate Dirhams (=Dhs. or AED) 100 Fils = 1 Dirham. Exchange Rate Dhs. 3.671 = US\$ 1.00.
- **Climate:** The sun shines all the year round in the UAE. March is a month of moderate climate. The average daily temperature of 26°C/15°C.
- **Clothing:** Dress code is informal on all occasions except during the Conference Opening Ceremony. All hotels have swimming pool facilities. The Organizing Committee also suggests to bring sunglasses, a hat, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes (mainly for the post conference tours, if interested).
- **Visas:** However, participants arriving to the United Arab Emirates will need an entry visa except for GCC countries(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and KSA). In

regard to the following countries, they can obtain a visa upon arrival at the airport (UK, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Monaco, Vatican, Iceland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Saint Marino). Others from countries not listed above will need an entry visa. It is their full responsibility to have an entry visa if required; however the Organizing Committee is willing to assist in this regard. A request of an entry visa could be made by filling in the enclosed form and sending it along with a photocopy of your valid passport with recent picture to the SIDPC organizing committee, +9713 713 4645 (office), Fax: +9713 713 5701, E-mail: rasheed.e@uaeu.ac.ae

- **Travel and accommodation:** The Organizing Committee will provide local transportation for participants at arrival and departure, and to the Conference venue. Hotel reservation should be arranged in advanced by participants themselves or through the organizing committee (Enclosed Accommodation Form is to be filled and send directly to the SIDPC organizing committee, +9713 713 4645 (office), Fax: +9713 713 5701, E-mail: rasheed.e@uaeu.ac.ae

XIV. Conveyors

Prof. Ghaleb Ali Alhadrami

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Abstracts and Proceedings

Abstract Booklet

We will provide a booklet of the abstracts on the first day of the conference. Please submit an abstract for both oral and poster presentations (one abstract per paper or presentation) to the Conference Organizing Committee at bchowdhary@uaeu.ac.ae Guidelines on the abstract can be found in the enclosed attachment. Therefore, we strongly and urgently request you to submit the abstracts not later than September 15, 2017 (Please reserve the date in your calendar).

Proceedings

A proceeding of full papers will also be published after the conference. You are encouraged to submit a full paper. Only selected and peer reviewed paper will be published. All presenters are requested to submit their paper camera ready (3 hardcopies and digital copy, preferably in Microsoft Word) by 15 October, 2017 to bchowdhary@uaeu.ac.ae (Please reserve the date in your calendar)

Details on submitting the manuscript

Will be provided in the second announcement (Planned for 15 September 2017).

REGISTRATION FORM

Sixth International Date Palm Conference
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; 19 - 21 March, 2018.

Name and address of presenting author:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

MOBILE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

I would like to attend the workshop:

- To present a paper** **To audit only** **To present a poster
or a booth**

Audio visual equipment required:

- Slide projector** **Overhead projector** **In-Focus**

To be sent to: Organizing Committee e-mail: rasheed.e@uaeu.ac.ae

ABSTRACT FORM

Sixth International Date Palm Conference
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; 19 - 21 March, 2018.

Guidelines for the preparation and submission of abstracts.

Authors are requested to adhere to the following rules:

- The abstract should be as informative as possible, containing:
 - a) The title of the presentation in Bold Letters and name(s) of the author(s). First names, address etc. in upper and lower case in the boxes marked;
 - b) Statement of the specific objective of the study;
 - c) Results with sufficient details to support conclusions;
 - d) Conclusions.
- Abstract must be typed in single line spacing in English, using type size equal or larger than 10 pts, on the abstract form provided. Do not type outside the enclosed frame.
- Use a laser printer, a good typewriter or a letter quality dot matrix printer. Avoid smudges or erasures.

Please submit by e-mail a copy of your abstract, with the author's names and affiliations as instructed. It will be reproduced as camera-ready copy of the Book of abstracts.

Abstracts are to be send not later than 15 September 2017 and addressed to :
bchowdhary@uaeu.ac.ae

ABSTRACT FORM

Sixth International Date Palm Conference
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; 19 - 21 March, 2018.

Title:

Name(s) of author(s) (presenting author underlined), institution, city, country.

البيانات المطلوبة لإستخراج إذن دخول خاص
Special Permit Information Required

البيانات المطلوبة تكتب باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية			
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Nationality:			الجنسية:
Occupation:			المهنة:
Sex:			الجنس:
Date of Birth:			تاريخ الميلاد:
Place of Birth:			مكان الميلاد:
Country of Birth:			بلد الميلاد:
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Address abroad:			العنوان بالخارج:

ملاحظة: إرفاق صورة جواز (ملونة) + صورة شخصية.

Note: Please attach passport colored copy + personal photo copy (size not more than 300 KB)