

# FAITH FOR EARTH NEWSLETTER 30 JUNE 2021

### The Day after World Environment Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We celebrated World Environment Day on June 5th and alongside UNEP and FAO launched the Decade of Ecosystem Restorations. Over 1.39 million people in over 190 countries engaged with the digital platform. The official events with participation from heads of states, religious leaders, musicians, entrepreneurs, activists has so far been viewed by nearly 300,000 people. At least 35,000 celebrated the Decade launch in partner-led events. More than 40,000 press articles were so far published in over 6,140 outlets across 174 countries in 37 languages.

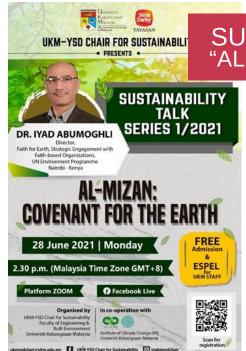
The Day is not over yet as environmental challenges are still facing us. We need to step up our efforts, reach out to more people, engage with more communities and make our voices heard. Let's make World Environment Day every day.

Faith for Earth is committed to work with you to mobilize the power of faith and religions. Keep engaging and keep up the pressure.



Following the Mapping of Faith Actors Preparations for COP26, the Taskforce is pleased to share the survey analysis representing 104 faith-based organisations globally.

The Taskforce will be moving forward in partnership with the Climate Initiative Platform (CIP). Organisations are encouraged to register on the platform to share best practices and network with FBOs cloball toways addressing Climate Change.



SUSTAINABILITY TALK SERIES 1/2021 "AL-MIZAN: A COVENANT FOR THE EARTH"

Monday, 28 June 2021 | 9:30 am EAT / 2:30 pm MYT

The UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability, kicked-off a series of "Sustainability Talks" with Dr.Iyad Abumoghli.

As part of the World Environment Day awareness campaign, this webinar explored the significance and progress of the Islamic Covenant for the Environment, called "Al-Mizan; A Covenant for the Earth" to strengthen local, regional and international actions that combat climate change and other threats to the planet.

Click here for more details about this Webinar



#### HARVARD RELIGION AND ECOLOGY CONFERENCES: CELEBRATING THE 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

25 years ago, a groundbreaking effort to explore and document the relationship between the environment and the world's largest religions, including indgenous worldviews, was launched with the Religions of the World and Ecology Conference Series at Harvard University. Conferences took place at the Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions from 1996-1998 and involved the direct participation and collaboration of over eight hundred scholars, indigenous and religious leaders, and environmental specialists from around the world. This project concluded with Culminating Conferences at the United Nations in 1998 and resulted in the creation of what is now known as the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, our partners at UNEP's Faith for Earth's Initiative.

In order to make the fruits of this work available to larger audiences, Harvard also published 10 edited volumes with articles written for these conferences. Learn more about these <u>conferences</u> and <u>books</u> that helped launch a new academic field of religion and ecology along with the force of engaged religious environmentalism.

## **CELEBRATING UNEP@50**

The year 2022 will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). This happened in 1972, at the first UN meeting where civil society were allowed to directly address the Member States. Civil society have been key players in developing UNEP's strategies and work plans, as well as their reach and impact regionally and globally.

Your contribution is, once again, fundamentally important to keep improving UNEP. By answering this survey you will be contributing to the final report entitled The UNEP We Want, to be delivered at UNEA 5.2, and afterward published and disseminated worldwide.

Please fill in the <u>survey</u> by 15 July 2021.







#### ISLAM AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Food plays and important cultural and spiritual role for Muslims. The currently used production, extraction and transportation methods are in no way aligned with The Qur'an which speaks of lawful food and of principles of balance, justice and health.

The recent position paper presents an Islamic perspective on the current food system, proposing ethical production, transportation and consumption of food, as well as farming practices with direct guidance from Qur'an and Sunnah.

You can find the publication here.

# GAN SURVEY ON ECOSYSTEM BASED APPROACHES

The Global Adaptation Network (GAN) is a hub for adaptation knowledge and to bring stakeholders together on a range of issues, with regional and global platforms creating opportunities for networking, collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and accessing funding.



GAN is launching a series of stakeholder dialogues between June and September 2021 on overcoming <u>EbA</u> <u>barriers through innovative solutions</u>. The series will begin with a global online survey followed by interactive regional stakeholder dialogues for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The <u>Global Adaptation Network</u> is inviting you to participate in a global survey to reach out to new partners about the <u>Global EbA Fund</u>, create a knwoledge hub for evidence-based adaptation solutions, planning, and investment, and how to upscale EbA. Click <u>here</u> for the survey.

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON RELIGION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (UN IATF-R) is pleased to share its 2020 Annual Report showing its growth over the past years and currently brings together 27 UN entities from across the system who meet on a regular basis, and co-organize joint advocacy and capacity-building activities.

The <u>2020 Annual Report</u> provides an overview of the engagement with faith-based actors and faith-related activities by the UN system members of the UN IATF-R, documenting activities, initiatives, and efforts undertaken by its membership 27 UN system entities. None of the opinions expressed here reflect those of the United Nations system, its member entities, Governing Board(s), or territory/territories.

## INTERFAITH FOREST RESTORATION

#### HEALING TROPICAL FORESTS FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative has issued a publication addressing the fundamental role faith communities can take in restoring and protecting tropical rainforests.

Rainforests are known to provide countless ecosystem services which are central to humans in general, but to local communities who directly depend upon those services.

Forest have a profound spiritual and religious meaning to many populations around the world - 'grounded in the belief that forests have inherent spiritual value, the work of forest restoration and stewardship can become a profound spiritual practice.'

Find the downloadable article <u>here</u>.
Find more about the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative <u>here</u>.

