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Emirati women pivotal to build nation's sustainable future

Over the past few years, more **Emirati women leaders** joined the travel, tourism and hospitality industry in the nation. Emirati women have been the driving force for the nation, contributing to the steady development of the United Arab Emirates. As the nation celebrates Emirati women's day, the women leaders share their message.

Women's participation has been a part and parcel of UAE's sustainability journey

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, noted "This year, we mark the day under the theme 'Inspiring Reality... Sustainable Future' because women continue to inspire our reality and play an active role in building the nation's sustainable future. They have been at the helm of the process and made valuable contributions to sustainability-focused projects and initiatives. As mothers, they are instrumental in educating the new generation about sustainability challenges and nurturing environmental stewards who can make responsible decisions." The Minister added that women have always held a special place in Emirati society. "With the wholehearted support and care of our wise leadership, primarily the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the 'Mother of the Nation' Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, the UAE ranked first regionally and 18th globally in the Gender Inequality Index of the UN Development Programme's Human Development Report 2020."



Significant milestone for UAE aviation

UAE's first female Emirati Captain in a commercial airline, **Captain Aisha Al Mansoori – Captain – Etihad Airways** shared about Etihad's efforts to expand the roles of women in aviation, in particular the pilot community. This year's Emirati women's day is special to Captain Al Mansoori as she will commence regular flying duties for the first time as captain on 28th August 2022. "I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to join Etihad's Cadet Pilot programme and grow my career over the years with Etihad. I am thankful for the tremendous support I have received from my instructors at Etihad and for their guidance through my training, which has shaped my skills and prepared me for the rank of Captain. I am proud to be the first female Emirati to be a Captain in a commercial airline, and I hope I will be an inspiration to young women to follow this career path."

Women contribute towards national progress

Buthaina Bin Fahad-Technology Professional–Dubai Government-Entrepreneur – Travel Industry: "The theme of the 2022 Emirati Women's Day celebration focuses on the UAE's journey in women's empowerment, it will be dedicated to inspiring reality and building a sustainable future, which promotes the UAE's positive image of Emirati women who proved that no undertaking is impossible. I am a proud Emirati and I am grateful for all the support and appreciation we receive from our government allowing us to contribute to the growth of our country and nation across all industries."



Women empowered and active in varied fields

Sharihan Al Mashary – First female Emirati General Manager: As an Emirati woman I've been fortunate to see the continued empowerment of women in the UAE by taking important roles in every field that builds society, grows economy and shapes the next 50 years. During my career as a hotelier and then to become the first female Emirati General Manager, aligned with our country's leadership to promote fairness, equality of opportunity & pay, national and youth employment in the organisation. It is clear to see the growing representation of women in all areas, from the Federal National Council through to the women entrepreneurs making Dubai and the UAE their destination of choice for innovation in hospitality, technology and beyond.

Visionary leadership shapes the future of the nation

Anisa Omar – Founder - dexplore: This year's theme for Emirati Women's Day is 'Inspiring Reality... Sustainable Future', this is ongoing support from leadership who believes that we play an important role in building and shaping the future of nation. I am grateful to belong to a country that empower women and support her to reach new heights. The leadership is committed to enrich us with knowledge, empower across all levels, industries and promote gender equality. As Emirati Women I am proud that actively I am contributing to the evaluations UAE is going through, to be in the travel industry it is very rewarding and fulfilling, I believe I am ambassador to represent the nation, specifically when addressing a lot of stereotypes about women in UAE.



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