

Speech: Hind Al Huwaidi, Chief Executive Development Officer at BEEAH at the Launch of the 2024 Future Pioneers Award

Good morning!

It is my distinct honour and privilege to welcome you as we launch the latest edition of the Future Pioneers Award, an initiative that is very close to our hearts. Under the esteemed patronage of Her Excellency Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, President of the American University of Sharjah, we are excited to launch a new edition of this global awards, which will set new benchmarks for sustainable excellence, create opportunities to influence positive environmental action, and inspire innovation for a better future.

At BEEAH, we have always believed that the key to a sustainable future lies in our ability to innovate, adapt and inspire. From our roots in environmental and waste management, we have expanded our horizons to include renewable energy, green mobility, transport, education, technology, healthcare and real estate. Across our range of operations, sustainability and digitalisation form the foundation of our work, and through initiatives like the Future Pioneers Award, we aim to nurture and empower the next generation of changemakers.

The Future Pioneers Award, previously known as the Environmental Excellence School Award (EESA), has a rich history of stimulating environmental action. With the EESA, we welcomed thousands of entries from participating schools across the UAE. Building on this strong foundation, we expanded the scope of the awards to an international audience last year, encouraging participation from all innovators who support local or global sustainability targets, whether they are school students, university students, industry professionals, government entities, or organisations.

As we launch the 2024 edition of the Future Pioneers Award, we are reminded of the incredible potential that lies within each of us to make a difference. By rewarding winning entries across various categories, we offer a dynamic platform to spotlight groundbreaking sustainability ideas that promise to transform communities for the better. Our aim is to celebrate and recognise the remarkable achievements of individuals and institutions dedicated to forging a brighter, more sustainable future.

The Future Pioneers Award is designed to recognise the diverse and impactful ways in which individuals and organisations contribute to sustainability. We have established five distinct categories for submissions, each unified by the common theme of innovations in sustainability. These categories honour a wide range of efforts, from organisational leadership and groundbreaking initiatives to individual contributions and innovative

products. By celebrating these achievements, we aim to highlight the multifaceted approaches to sustainability and the remarkable technologies driving us towards a more sustainable future.

The Future Pioneers Award is more than just a competition; it is a movement. It is a call to action for individuals, groups, and organisations to come together and contribute to a sustainable future. By igniting and celebrating innovation and creativity across entrants from diverse backgrounds both within the UAE and internationally, we aim to give recognition to the innovators driving ambitious, transformative change as we work towards a net-zero future.

As we look ahead, we are excited to see how other individuals and companies are thinking about innovation, especially as worldwide opportunities for the integration of AI and advanced technologies with sustainable practices continues to grow. At this exciting time, we are committed to developing smart, green solutions that enhance urban living, reduce carbon footprints, and promote a circular economy. Our vision is to lead the region in creating a sustainable future through continuous innovation and strategic partnerships.

We encourage everyone to participate in the Future Pioneers Award and join us on this journey. Whether you are a school student with a bright idea, a university student with a groundbreaking project, or a professional with a visionary solution, we want to hear from you. Even the smallest ideas can spark amazing change, so we invite submissions from a wide range of contributors. Together, we can make a difference and create a better tomorrow for all.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Her Excellency Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi for her unwavering support, kind patronage and valuable guidance. And a special thank you goes to my team for their hard work on this edition of the awards and to the marketing team for their constant support and dedication to make this launch event a huge success.

Once again, I want to thank you all for being here today. Let us embark on this exciting journey together and celebrate the power of innovation in shaping a sustainable future. I look forward to seeing the incredible ideas and projects that will emerge from this year's Future Pioneers Award.

Thank you.

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