

The Mangrove Plantation Exchange Program at the Jubail Mangrove Park, the United Arab Emirates

The INPEX JODCO Foundation (the Foundation) conducted a mangrove plantation exchange program at the Jubail Mangrove Park in the United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tokyo. This program was held in presence of His Excellency Shihab Ahmad Alfaheem, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Japan and the Director of the Foundation.

This program was initiated by Ambassador Alfaheem, with the aim to further deepen the environmental exchange between the UAE and Japan, following a previous mangrove plantation conducted in Nagura Bay, Ishigaki Island attended by the Ambassador*.

*<https://www.inpex-jodco-foundation.com/en/pdf/202410-1-en.pdf>

The UAE has announced a target to plant 100 million mangrove trees by 2030 in their own country, and the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) was launched led by the UAE and Indonesia, seven countries, including Japan (42 countries and 1 organization participating as of October 2024).

These plantation activities are an initiative put forward by Ambassador Alfaheem as part of efforts to tackle climate change and promote environmental exchange between the UAE and Japan since 2023, the year COP28 was held in the UAE.

Approximately 50 participants took part in the program, including Ambassador Alfaheem, the officials from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, the Embassy of Japan in the United Arab Emirates, the member of the Foundation, the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems, Yaeyama Lions Club, students from Yaeyama Agricultural High School, Yaeyama Commerce and Industry High School & Yaeyama High School students from Japanese School Abu Dhabi and so forth. Through the planting of *Avicennia marina* seedlings, participants gained insights into the significance of mangroves and their ecosystems in the UAE, from both environmental and cultural perspectives.

This program provided a great opportunity to enhance awareness of conservation efforts for a sustainable natural environment for future generations, as well as action against global climate change. For participants from Japan, it also provided a valuable change to deepen their understanding of the traditional and contemporary culture of the UAE, environment, tolerance, and the importance of bilateral cooperation between both countries.

The Foundation will continue to promote projects that facilitate environmental exchange between the UAE and Japan.

