

# Young green warriors take steps to save environment

Green's Better, an initiative of two Doha-based sisters from Pakistan, aims to raise awareness on protecting the environment

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The issue of environment is huge and it requires massive action. Though the drastic steps to save Earth can be taken by the governments, major corporate companies and big environmental organisations, there are certain small steps that every individual can take to have a significant impact.

'Green's Better' is a non-profit company that was started as a green initiative four years ago by two Doha-based sisters from Pakistan. Doha College students Lina Osama, Grade 8, and Ruba Osama, Grade 5, believe that some small individual steps can make a difference. The schoolgirls have been raising awareness, recycling used items and carrying out plantation drives both in Qatar and Pakistan.

The inspiration for the initiative did not come from something extraordinary. The sisters realised the enormity of the issues as they were introduced to the subject by their parents through social media some four years ago. "Since then, we've devoted quite some time into thinking of solutions. A challenge that we faced was that we had to think of solutions that everyone could do and access everywhere. The realisation that world is changing, and not in a good way, has been keeping us motivated to continue this project," said Lina, who is CEO of Green's Better.



Lina Osama

The young CEO is happy with what they have achieved in four years but certainly not done with it. "We started off at our previous school with a plantation drive; sessions with every grade, teaching them the importance of taking care of the environment. We gave them each an empty plastic bottle that was cut from the top, some soil and a few seeds. The drive was partnered with Ezdan Mall, Doha. It went very well. We repeated this around 10 times in different schools and institutions both in Doha and Pakistan."

They work on spreading the message that global warming is real. "We need to act and what minimal we can do is to reuse materials at home. If you have an empty soda can, why don't you cut the top and use it as a pencil



Ruba Osama

holder? Wouldn't that save some material? Green's Better made 50 planters out of abandoned wooden palettes that we found in the street. We made them by hand and we even hired help."

Lina wants children to plant with passion and love because they are the leaders of tomorrow. "Without spending a lot of money, we managed to use pots and soil in every school we went to, because we made planters with wooden pallets and plenty of compost. You don't need a detailed solution or an inspirational startup to help the planet. Just by putting in extra effort into things like spreading the word, cutting down on materials harmful to the environment, planting something and getting people you know to do the same, you're helping. Everything counts. We shouldn't only depend on things like eco organisations or government campaigns. Our role matters. We are the change."

Ruba is Chief Green Warrior of Green's Better. Green warriors are all the children who take part in the campaigns of Green's Better. "My job is to guide them and make sure they understand what they have to do. I started when I was six years old. We started our work in Doha by going to Newton International School for a plantation drive. We encouraged them to plant their own seeds and water them every day. At the end of the school year, they took their plans home. We also went to The Next Generation School to do the same. We went to Tiny Town, Edison International and Pak Shama school as well."

"In Pakistan, we managed to plant more than 1,000 trees in Karachi University, and as many in Dewa Academy. We also have plantation drives with Montessori Children House, Ilmesters Academy, Dewa Academy, Laureate School, Happy Palace School, and Government Girls School Quetta."

For the green warriors, during Covid-19, there were not many options to help save the environment. "However, we decided to make awareness videos and post them on social media. We made videos about recycling, how to keep yourself entertained with eco-friendly activities, how to stay safe during Covid-19 while also being eco-friendly, and growing different vegetables in your home garden."

Some of the personal efforts



Green warriors along with Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar, planting a tree at the embassy.

made by the sisters at home include recycling plastic bottles and wooden pallets. "With plastic bottles, we made small planters and grew tomatoes. With wooden pallets, we made big planters and put pots of cacti, flowers, money-plants and a few more. We also recycle yoghurt and ice cream tubs, using them as pots for many different small plants. We reuse paper and cardboard boxes too, to stop deforestation," said Ruba.

The young green warriors strive to show people how they can help. "A message we want to convey all the children of the world is that we are the next generation and if we don't clean up the mess that our current world leaders have ignored for so long, the future generations



Awareness campaign in a school in Qatar.

will struggle even harder. We believe that children can make a bigger difference than adults.

With our imagination, determination, and passion we can bring real change."

## Filcom conducts Youth Leadership Programme

Filcom International Toastmasters Club (Filcom) recently culminated its Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) through a grand finale streamed live via Facebook, showcasing the youth leaders' progressive transformation.

The YLP is an eight-session education programme offered by Toastmasters International which aims to enhance public speaking skills, develop leadership abilities and learn to think on their feet. This year's YLP was curated for the 30 youth leaders of the Philippine School Doha who registered and were supported by their parents.

Throughout the eight sessions, which were designed in a way that these young minds can explore their innate potentials, there were various keynote speakers who inspired the youth leaders and the aptly designed training modules helped them learn and hone various skills. The Filcomites extended support through one-on-one mentoring and facilitating training modules to equip the participants.

The grand finale with the



theme 'Empowering the Youth Against All Odds' was graced by the presence of Manzoor Moideen, a radio fame quizmaster and Qatar's District director-elect, who inspired young minds with his thought-provoking speech. It was also attended by a young keynote speaker Aashna Takhtani, who explained the tricks and techniques to overcome negative thoughts by her 'kill those ants' way.

True to the empowerment advocacy of the programme, two of these youth leaders served as the masters of ceremony for the two-hour event.

Some of them delivered motivational and inspiring speeches of various depths from their own personal life-stories and dreams. Another set took the challenge to evaluate these speeches by showcasing their listening and critical thinking skills while the rest participated in a table-top session, to test their impromptu speaking talents.

The youth leaders who attended the YLP included; Samantha Keisha P Santos, Aaron Joel P Nepomuceno, Laurence Jean T Villanueva, Princess

Denise T Gonzales, Edrick Ryle L Evangelista, Hans Jelo C Magtira, Micolle Angeline D Victoria, Hildegard Anne S Alimurong, John Paolo M Benitua, Gabriel Anthony M Benitua, Unica Rajia A De Vera, Ethan Joel P Nepomuceno, Ayan M Llamada, Aditi Pillai, Jazmin Cloei D Pe, Margaret Isaiyah G Torio, Alijah Gabrielle B Abrenica, Jean Carlisle Elijaucian, Tracy Lalaine B Desierto, Lawrence Gabriel R Mararac, Lila Kasandra Niel P Gabrillo, Fritz Elizer C Cabunillas, Elinor Frezyl C Cabunillas, and Yochabel A Reynolds, Sean Gabriel P Arellano.

The YLP organising team was led by Diana May Tangente, Filcom Club president; Joseph Amande, Program Co-ordinator; and Deepti Potnis, Main Co-ordinator. It was supported by the module presenters, special task co-ordinators and mentors namely; Leo Ortega, C J Rojas, Michelle Macaraig, Stella Sabangan, Philip Cherian, Shyam Sundar, Dennis Mujana, Satish Shah, Vidal Bagas, Rinku Saha (showcase manager), Swetha Raghuraman (PR Lead).

## DPS-Monarch International School holds Tech Fest

DPS-Monarch International School recently hosted the second season of Monarch Tech Fest as Cybertronics - an international virtual competition series and informatics symposium. Its aim was to build a platform to create a cyber-syndicate and to unlock the true potential of young learners across the globe in the field of technology. The programme started on May 24 and ended with a grand finale on a virtual platform recently. The event was attended by Hemant Kumar Dwivedi, First Secretary (Culture & Education) at embassy of India, as chief guest. Hassan Chougule, school president, and Yasir Nainar, vice president,

were guests of honour. Meenal Bakshi, school principal, key functionaries, and faculties also attended the event. Other prominent figures who attended the programme were: Manzoor Moideen, entrepreneur and known toastmaster; and judges - Maria D'Souza Gujar, head of school at Rejoice International School, India; Devyani Kapoor, founder and CEO of Edudevs, India; and Devika Nair, security consultant, Identity & Access Management with Paramount Computer Systems, Qatar. The principal welcomed all the attendees. Hemant Kumar Dwivedi complimented the efforts of the school. The guests of honour also delivered their

notes of appreciation. More than 70 students from over 13 schools from different countries participated in various event categories, which included; Weave-n-Voice (animation), Code Alchemist (coding), E-Innov (website designing), E-Designer (digital designing), Meshmerize (audio remixing), Think Tank (extempore) and Brain Warriors (quiz competition). Winners of all the categories were announced in the end by the guests of honour, principal, and the headmistress. The overall rolling trophy was bagged by the cyber stars of DPS-Modern Indian School. Secondary School headmistress Madhu Uppal delivered the vote of thanks.



## IIEE-Qatar organises technical seminar for its members

The Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers (IIEE) of the Philippines, Qatar chapter, recently held its 2021 mid-year conference, a technical seminar and general membership meeting during a hybrid conference at Hilton Hotel Doha.

Adam A Musa, Labor Attache at Philippine Overseas Labour Office, Philippine embassy, was the guest speaker. He delivered an inspirational message to the attendees focusing on the IIEE-Qatar chapter's involvement

and contribution to the Filipino community in Qatar.

Organised under the leadership of IIEE-Qatar president Rudilyn Reyes and chaired by vice-president, external affairs, Jimmy Michael Bugay, the event was a success.

The event was supported by the sponsors namely, ABB-Qatar, a digital technology company, and NVC Lighting, manufacturer of LED Lighting.

The event was attended by more than 500 participants from

Qatar, the Philippines and other Gulf countries, as well as electrical engineering students from different universities in the Philippines.

The event demonstrated IIEE resilience and aspirations to continue members' growth initiative and in upholding the highest professional standards and excellence in the global arena, which is in line with this year's theme, 'Got-I-IIEE: Transcending the Challenges in the New Normal by Embracing Resiliency and Complementarity'.

It was a hybrid event where attendees participated both physically and online.

The first topic, 'Optimising Project Development of Large-scale Solar Power Plants', was presented by Sheila C Cabaraban, president, Consultants Unlimited, and also a former IIEE national president. The second topic, 'Design Philosophy and Testing of Fire Protection System in Power Transformers', was delivered by Mario M Solang, senior quality control engineer, Kahramaa.