# WHO ARE WE?

The Emirates Geographical Society is a scientific and professional society concerned with the discipline of Geography. It was founded by a group of Emirati geographical scientists, together with a number of geography learners and professionals, as well as others with an interest and commitment to geography. The society was officially convened in October 2009, by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and is based in Abu Dhabi.



Frist Inaugural Board of Directors-2010

# THE VISION

The Emirates Geographical Society vision is to contribute in the development not only of the nation and the region, but also the world, through the voluntary provision of expertise, skills and experience. We follow a global rather than a local focus on human culture and its environment, and look forward to taking an active role in deepening the knowledge and professionalism in all areas of geography.



With shick Nahian bin Mubarak

#### **MISSION**

The Emirates Geographical Society message is centred on enhancing the understanding of public and private roles of geographical science in balancing environmental and cultural programs of national and global development at all levels.

#### THE IDEA

The idea of establishing an association for geographers first emerged in the Department of Geography at UAE University in the eighties. Following this, Emirati Professors in the same Department, pursued ideas throughout the midnineties, but it was not until the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century that the society first saw light of day. The final success was due to two reasons. The first was procedural. The Society could not be formed until a change in the Statute governing public interest societies was enacted by the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2008.

The second reason was the suggestion and very strong encouragement from "Afra Babtain" to Dr. Asma Al Ketbi at a dinner in Kuwait in 2009, that the establishment a geographical science association for the Emirates was long overdue. But "Babtain" and "Ketbi" could not have realised the dream without the changed circumstances created by the new Statute, and the welcoming interest shown by the potential founding members when the society was but an idea.



Field trip with Scintiest from NASA-2011

# **THE GOALS**

- 1. Consolidating and developing the discipline of geography by encouraging geographical research, and improving awareness of the importance of geographical studies.
- 2. Promoting geographical scientific thought, and working to develop and activate it by providing opportunities for geographers to contribute to broader scientific progress.
- 3. Conducting visits within and beyond the UAE for the purpose of scientific understanding and exploration.
- 4. Establishing and sponsoring seminars, lectures, programs and training courses for geographers, associated professionals and others interested in geography.
- 5. Planning and organizing geographical conferences at the local, regional and global levels.
- 6. Social networking among the society members, and bonding between those engaged in different geographical areas inside and outside the United Arab Emirates.
- 7. Highlighting the value and importance of geography and its sub-disciplines to the people of the United Arab Emirates.
- 8. Enabling cooperation and the exchange of experience and skills between geographical specialists and interested parties, both Emirati and resident, in all areas of human and physical geography, including geographic information systems, remote sensing, mapping.
- 9. Facilitating the interchange of scientific information, and implementing scientific projects locally, regionally and internationally.
- 10. Supporting links between Emirati and resident qualified geographers, in order to compare educational experiences acquired from local, regional and international institutions, for the purpose of offering specialist advice and consultancy.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SALON

The purpose of the Salon is to promote, organise and deliver geographical seminars, either through its own initiative or at the request of the broader community or official agencies who may need geographic information or expertise for use in social, economic, environmental or other projects.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL COURT

The Court facilitates and promotes lectures presented by eminent International and Arabic geographers.

# **GEOGRAPHERS ON THE WAY.**

#### THE YOUNG GEOGRAPHER PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to bring school students that are between 8 and 12 years old into contact with the science of geography. It endeavours to attract them by emphasising the fun in geography through using activities such as drawing and coloring to express their geographical ideas.

# THE GEOGRAPHY AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The Program's objective is to establish a structure and framework for voluntary work for university students, in particular to encourage outstanding students to become ambassadors to schools and universities to promote for the science of geography.



Egypt trip 2017

### **EXPEDITIONS**

The first scientific expedition for Emirates Geographical Society was to the northern emirates to discover caves. This was the first expedition of its kind. A team from "Slovenia", one of the world's leading countries in cave exploration, including one their most experienced scientists in unknown cave analysis, participated.



First cave expedition-2011

# MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The Geographical Society has carried out a number of memorandums of understanding inside and outside the country as follows:

- 2016, Karst Research Institute-Slovenia
- 2015 University Paris Sorbonne- Abu Dhabi
- 2014, Ministry of climatic change & Environment

#### **SCIENTIFIC FILMS** (under construction)

Works in progress by specialists and students:

- 1- Who are we? And what is Geography?
- 2- Mangroves?
- 3- The earth's atmosphere.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL COUNCIL

It is the role of a number of members of the Society's Council to develop and maintain contact with the senior officials in the government, in order to promote the Society and its activities.





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AlAsfar Lake (KSA) 2012