

IREF wraps up successful sixth edition

27 January 2023 | News

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The International Rain Enhancement Forum (IREF), which ran under the patronage of Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, wrapped up a highly successful sixth edition at Conrad Abu Dhabi at Etihad.

Organised by the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM), through the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science (UAEREP), the first-of-its-kind event to tackle pressing water and sustainability issues worldwide discussed the key scientific and technological breakthroughs in rain enhancement research and their applications.

Over its three-day run, the Forum drew the participation of more than 500 scientists, researchers and specialists in weather modification and rain enhancement science, validating its status as a platform for eminent international and national experts, researchers and decision-makers in the fields of water security and water sustainability.

Dr Abdulla Al Mandous, Director General of and President of the Regional Association II (Asia) of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), said, "IREF's latest edition coincided with the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's declaration of 2023 as the Year of Sustainability and the country's preparations for the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28). In addition to offering an excellent opportunity to strengthen regional and international collaboration in rain enhancement research, the Forum allowed us to explore new approaches and technologies in cloud seeding operations where scientific research through UAEREP's awarded projects is key to their success. Such efforts

enable us to find innovative solutions and adopt sustainable practices to ensure global water security.â

During the Forum, UAERP announced the call for submissions for its 5th Cycle that offers winning research proposals a grant of up to \$1.5 million. In its latest cycle, the program welcomes innovative research proposals with a focus on two high-priority areas: enhancing cloud formation and rain enhancement.