

His Excellency Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Chairman of Masdar Opening Remarks at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2025 Opening Ceremony

Your Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates...

Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests...

Welcome to the United Arab Emirates, to the 2025 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and the Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony.

As we enter the second quarter of the 21st century...we find ourselves at a pivotal moment.

We are standing at the edge of two worlds...the world as we know it, and the world as it could be.

This is a moment that I like to call... "the nexus of next."

Please allow me to explain...

Three powerful forces are converging to reshape our future in ways we never thought possible.

First...the growth of emerging markets, which now drive more than half of the world's prosperity.

Second...the fundamental transformation of our energy systems that is expanding our energy mix and creating entirely new industries.

And third...the exponential growth of Artificial Intelligence that is changing the pace of change itself.

These trends, together, have the potential...not just to drive progress...but to put progress into OVERDRIVE.

Colleagues, in many ways the UAE embodies the nexus of next. Our nation has always been uniquely positioned at the intersection of tradition and transformation.

And our founding father, Sheikh Zayed, made the impossible not just possible, but inevitable.

He turned arid sand into fertile land.
And he laid the foundations that turned the UAE into the
progressive energy leader it is today.
This legacy of leadership continues to this day.
Your Highness, YOU are constantly inspiring us to break new
ground.

Under your guidance, we have set records in solar... from the
biggest single site power plant... to a world-leading desalination
plant.

We have set the pace in wind...creating wind farms that can
operate in rough seas ... and at low speeds.

We have set the bar in nuclear... with all 4 units of the Barakah
plant fully operational.

We have set benchmarks in AI... from the Mohamed bin Zayed
University of Artificial Intelligence, the first ever home-grown
university entirely dedicated to AI...to strategic investment
vehicles like MGX..

And We have set foot in space... sent a probe to Mars...and we
are not stopping there.

We will soon send a mission to the asteroid belt with the MBR
Explorer...and we will map our planet with our own satellite, MBZ-
SAT.

Your Highness, your guidance has been our north star for each of
these accomplishments.

And it was your call for unity that nurtured multilateralism
...allowed determination to conquer doubt ...and brought the
world together... to deliver the historic, UAE consensus at
COP28.

Distinguished Guests, this unwavering belief in the power of human potential runs through our nation's veins. Where others see a barrier, we see a horizon and head towards it. And for decades, the biggest barrier facing renewable energy has been intermittency. It has been the moonshot challenge of our time. How can we power a world that never sleeps with energy sources that do? How can we transform renewable resources into reliable power? Today ...WE HAVE AN ANSWER. Excellencies, colleagues and friends, I am pleased to announce the launch of the world's first renewable energy facility capable of providing renewable energy... at scale... around the clock.

In partnership with the Emirates Water and Electricity Company, Masdar is combining 5GW of solar capacity with 19GW hours of storage to produce 1 GW of uninterrupted clean power. This will, for the first time ever, transform renewable energy into baseload energy. It is a first step that could become a giant leap. And it simply would not have happened without the resolute support, drive and determination of our leadership and our partners.

Colleagues...battery storage is the fastest growing energy technology in the world today. A record 100 GW of storage will be added to the grid this year. Yet, this represents a tiny fraction of the overall power demand that is being driven by the megatrends, and especially the surge in AI.

Before AI took off, power demand was already on track to grow from 9000 to over 15,000 GW by 2035. But with apps like ChatGPT growing by half a billion visits every month... and using ten times as much energy as a single google search ...demand by 2050 could reach as high as 35,000 GW.

We are talking about an increase of over 250 per cent.

And I am sure you would all agree that NO single source of energy can meet this unprecedented demand.

In a world where a billion people still lack access to energy, we need to have a diversity of energy options.

And allow me to be clear, policies and regulations that prematurely reduce those options are just self-defeating.

Simply put, we need an and-and approach.

That's the thinking behind Abu Dhabi's newest addition to its diversified energy portfolio, EXERGY.

EXERGY is an international energy investment company, with a unique architecture that will adapt to emerging energy needs.

EXERGY literally means maximizing the potential from every unit... every spark... and every joule... of energy.

Investing across the full spectrum...from gas... to chemicals...to low carbon fuels...to energy infrastructure... is an energy company designed for the future.

Distinguished Guests, the nexus of next means putting people at the heart of progress.

It means uniting to address global challenges.

And it means recognizing that no discovery is worth making unless it helps humanity and improves lives.

That is what the Zayed Sustainability Prize is all about.

Thanks to the Prize, every day, somewhere in the world, a village drinks clean water for the first time.

A child is able to study under solar-powered light.

A farmer harvests crops from land that was once barren.

This prize continues the legacy of Sheikh Zayed, who believed that the future we are creating is not just about generating power — it's about empowering people.

Your Highnesses, Excellencies, distinguished guests, in closing... let me address a point that has dominated our energy and sustainability conversations for far too long.

For too long we have been trapped in a false choice between energy access and sustainability.

This 'either-or' thinking is paralyzing progress.

It is time to change the narrative.

The truth is, energy and sustainability are not opposing forces.

They are essential partners.

The choice is NOT between two paths - it's about creating a new path, together.

A path that unlocks growth, drives prosperity and unleashes unprecedented economic opportunity...

A path that delivers the nexus of next.

I thank You.