



EARTH

Day 50th
anniversary campaign
Final report 2020



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about IYCY



IYCY is a leading, independent and neutral Non- Governmental organization, working nationwide at different levels to promote equitable and sustainable development, deliver humanitarian assistance, and other relevant interventions for a better life and wellbeing of communities and individuals. IYCY doubled its efforts to build and implement science-based, comprehensive, integrated Projects in several sectors at Yemen level that addresses the most critical needs of the most vulnerable people towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since the establishment of the international Youth Council-Yemen (IYCY) in 2012, IYCY has been implementing several programs in different sectors reached the most vulnerable people with lifesaving and economical projects through Yemeni governorates such as WASH, Nutrition, Food, Health, Land Governance, Energy, Environment and Climate Change as well as Youth development.

IYCY is very keen on embracing Youth and community regardless of their political, religious, color, ethnic groups or backgrounds. IYCY adopts the values of integrity, transparency, and credibility which contribute to the success of its work with other CSOs and INGOs. IYCY has a very good relationship with local authorities and government branches which allow better coordination and implementation of the activities of IYCY's projects. The team of IYCY is diverse and inclusive and their experience is diversified.

IYCY's Environment, Energy and Climate Change (EECC) Program

As the poorest and most water-insecure country in the Middle East and North African region, Yemen faces serious risks from climate change. More than half of Yemen's population lives on incomes below the poverty line, and the mostly rural population continues to grow rapidly. Ongoing conflict and a lack of adequate environmental management policies (among other factors) position Yemen at a great disadvantage in facing future impacts of climate change. Hence, IYCY pays great attention to the issues of climate change, environmental and energy in Yemen.

The program aims to spread awareness and building capacity of young Yemeni people in Climate change, Energy and Environment through a various of activities and implemented projects.

What we do in EECH program

IYCY believes that young Yemeni people had a lot of energy, but still felt uninformed and uninvolved. Through the EECH Program, IYCY tries to help youth understand the environmental issues while utilizing their energy to work toward positive change.

In fact, the International Youth Council-Yemen has been paying intention to this since 2014, and has been integrating those kinds of relevant activities with its projects in different approaches as follows:

- 1- Capacity building for Yemeni Youth and Local authorities.
- 2- Develop Solar Policy and Legislative Framework
- 3- Adapting to climate change, and Assess the gaps and needs
- 4- Promoting the solar energy to be wider used and utilized
- 5- Implementing and introducing solar energy as an effective tool in the field and measuring the impact.
- 6- Environmental Awareness sessions

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Overall goal:

To build a group of youth who have enhanced knowledge in environmental science and fluent in local and global ecological issues.

1. Executive Summary

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, virtual activities enabled us to connect communities that otherwise would not be able to come together in person. Although the climate crisis and COVID-19 present significant challenges, today's circumstances also unite us stronger than ever before.

To encourage and inspire youth to engage in environmental activism, The International Youth Council - Yemen, IYCY, organized different virtual activities on the occasion of Earth Day 50th Anniversary.

To raise awareness of youth on the trending topics regarding climate change IYCY has conducted four virtual seminars targeting 20-45 participants in each seminar to highlight the sensitive issues on climate change and to showcase local support for the global environmental movement. The ultimate goal was to build a group of youth who know environmental science and fluent in local and global ecological issues

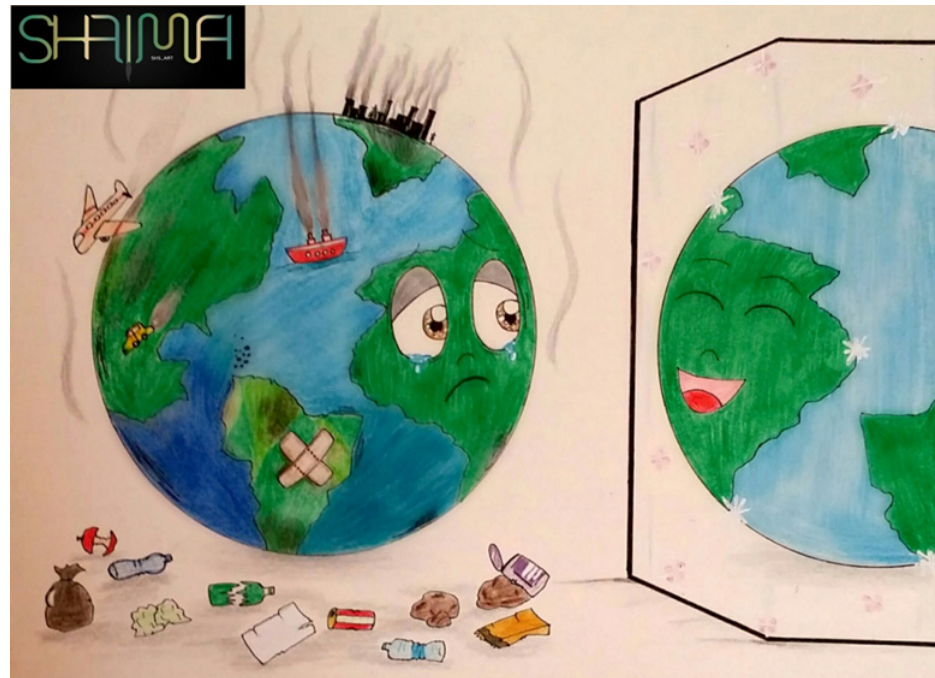
Additionally, IYCY has conducted a prize award contest targeting a segment of youth with different hobbies like photographers, graphic designers, writers and drawers, these youth were enabled to compete with each other on creating environmental pollution-related content to grab the attention of Yemeni youth on the negative impact of a polluted environment to enable them to engage actively on the environmental movement and advocate for environmental conservation



2. Purpose and new developments

The objective of the project was to approach youth and involve them in activities to raise their awareness regarding different environmental issues through online seminars and competitions to enhance their knowledge of local and global ecological issues.

Despite the technical difficulties in Yemeni governorates we have reached 176 youth via online seminars and 63 youth competing in the art contest. These youth are equipped with sufficient knowledge on the environmental issues and are interested in raising the awareness of men and women within their local communities.

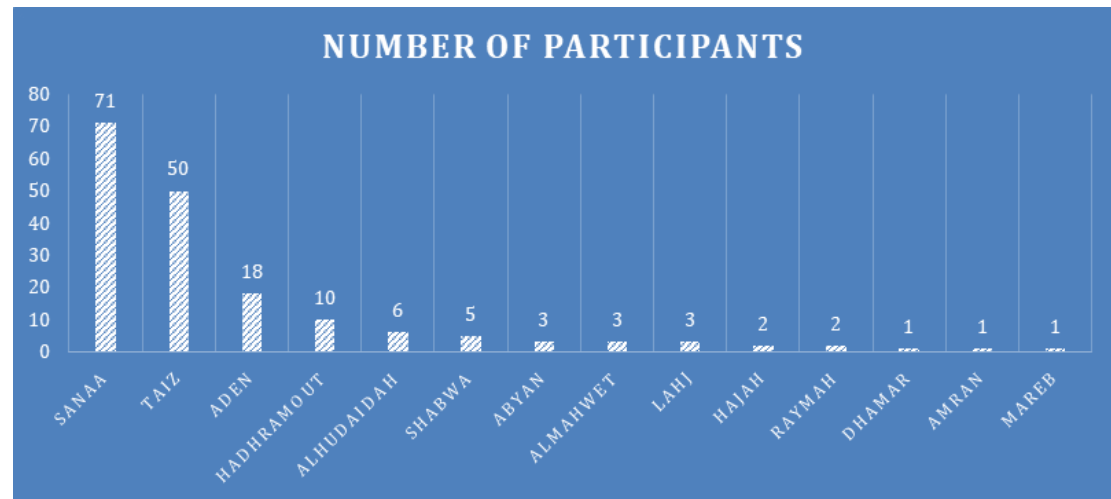


3. Project results

Since the Project activities were conducted online, this enabled us to gain positive outcomes at all levels. The online environment enabled us to gather people from all around Yemen in one place. Besides, the online environment provides a more comfortable venue for shy people to participate in online activities and discussions. Hence, this increased the pool of participants, the likelihood of varied perspectives, and the richness of the discussion.

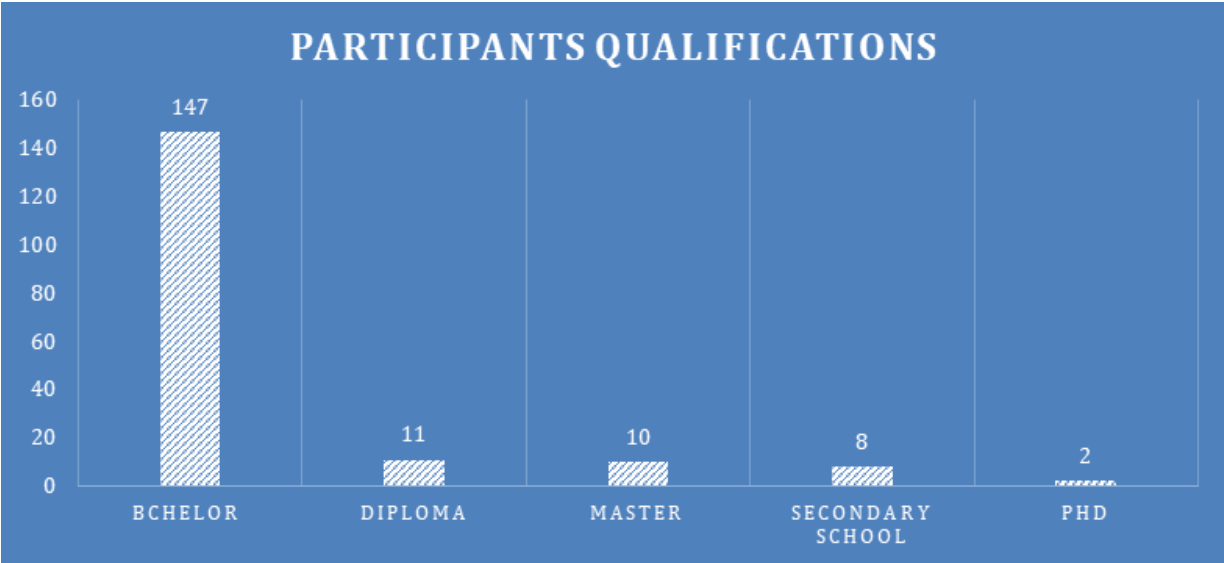
3.1 Participants in online seminars from all around the country:

N	Governorate	Number of participants
1	Sanaa	71
2	Taiz	50
3	Aden	18
4	Hadhramout	10
5	Alhudaidah	6
6	Shabwa	5
7	Abyan	3
8	Almahwet	3
9	Lahj	3
10	Hajah	2
11	Raymah	2
12	Dhamar	1
13	Amran	1
14	Mareb	1
Total		176



3.2 Online seminars participants qualifications:

Qualification	Number of participants
Bachelor	145
Diploma	11
Master	10
PhD	2
Total	176

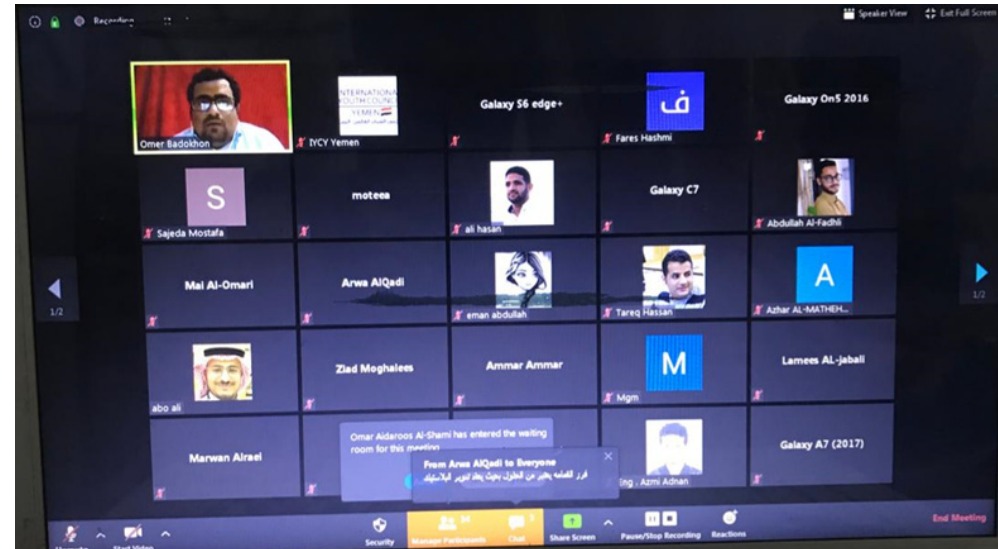


3.3 Plastic Pollution Seminar:

The objectives of the seminar were to equip participants with understanding of plastic use globally, relating in particular to the scale of plastic pollution and its effect on the environment and development of policies and procedures to end plastic pollution and to enable participants to contribute to further Awareness Raising activities. The Seminar was held from 7:30 to 9 PM (1hr and half).

Upon completion of the seminar, the participants:

- Are aware of the impacts of plastic pollution on human health.
- Are aware of how plastic pollution impacts wildlife and contributes to biodiversity loss.
- Are aware of the extent of plastic pollution in Yemen.
- Are aware of plastic pollution threats to the health and productivity of the environment.

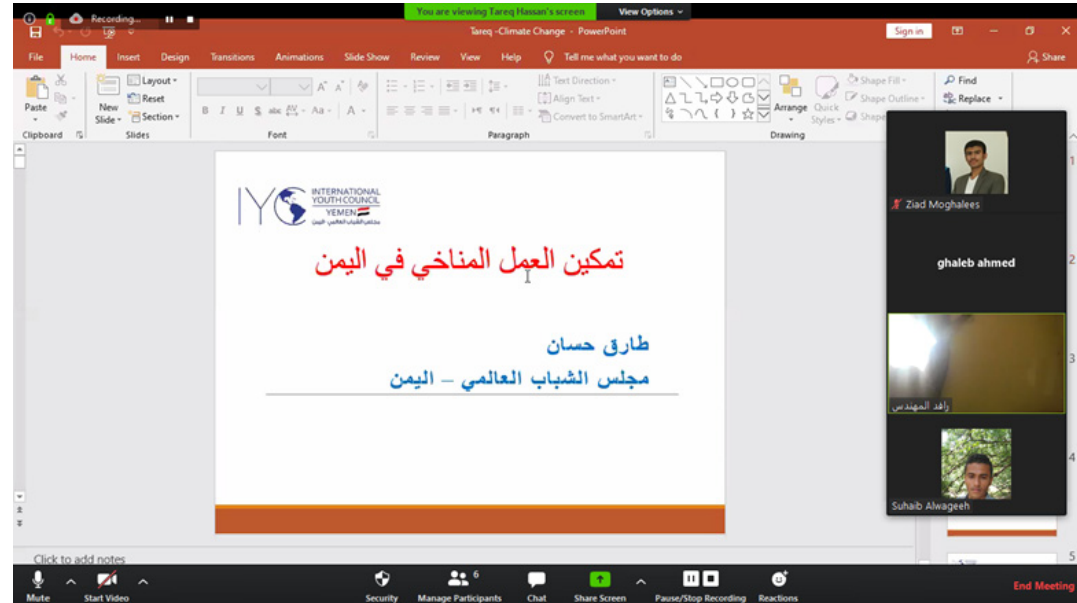


3.4 Climate Action Empowerment Seminar:

The objectives of the seminar were to inform the participants about how human activity drives climate change and what impacts their community may experience, promoting concepts and values that encourage the participants to take individual and collective actions to address climate change. Empowering the participants with civic engagement skills necessary to taking a stand against the climate crisis The Seminar was held from 4:30 to 6 PM.

Upon completion of the seminar, the participants:

- Are aware of climate change, its causes and consequences as well as the extent of global warming during the past decade.
- Have the ability to educate their friends and relatives about environmental problems.
- Are aware of agreements, meetings and conferences related to climate change around the world.
- Understand the work of community-based youth initiatives to raise awareness about the effects of climate change.
- Organize a tree planting campaign to increase native tree cover in your community,

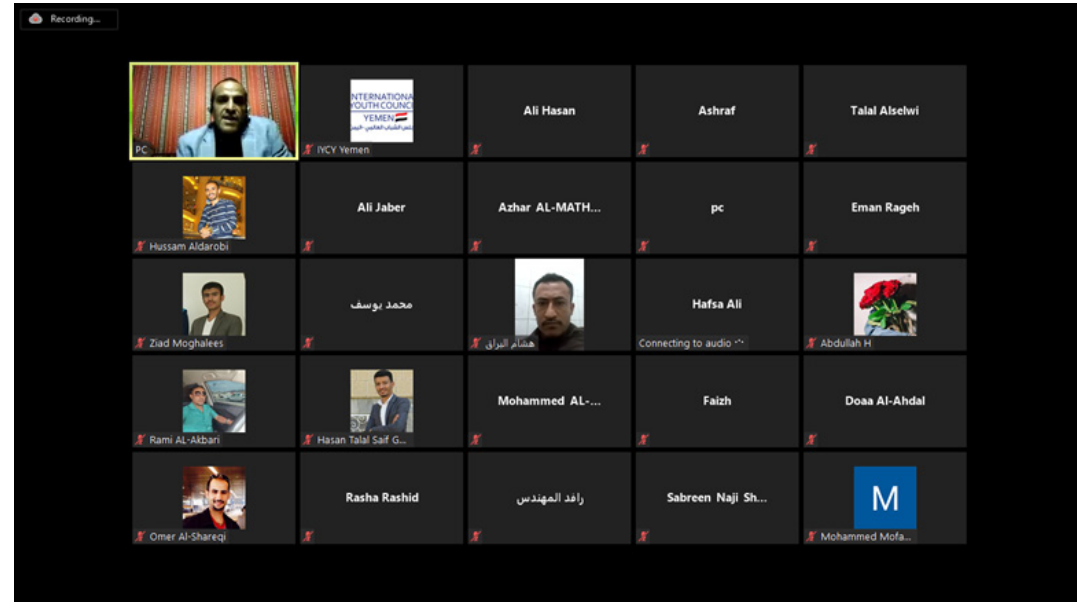


3.5 Water Pollution Seminar:

The objectives of the seminar were to inform the participants about threats to clean drinking water and the impacts of pollution on human and environmental health, Promoting concepts and values that encourage the participants to evaluate their personal or community impact on water quality, and to empower them with civic engagement skills necessary to advocate for safe drinking water and pollutant free ecosystems The Seminar was held from 7:30 to 9 PM (1hr and half).

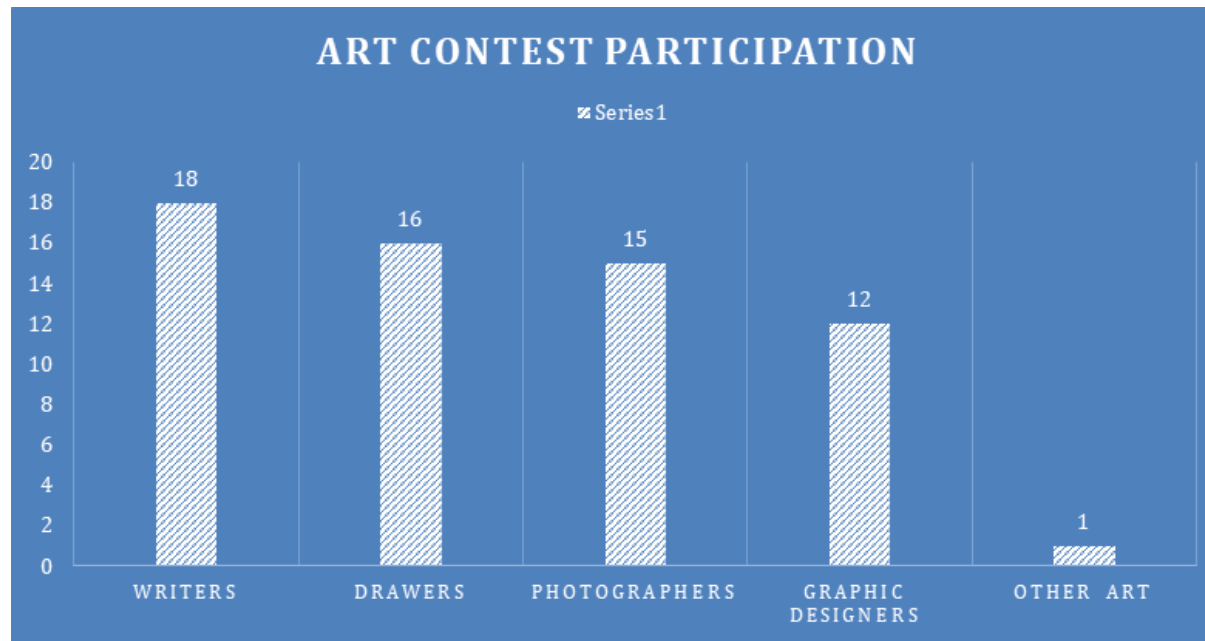
Upon completion of the seminar, the participants:

- Are aware of all forms of water pollution.
- Are aware of the problem of seawater pollution due to solid waste.
- Are aware of the sources of groundwater pollution.
- Are aware of the threats of industrial waste to water quality.
- Are aware of the effects of pesticides on water and food quality.



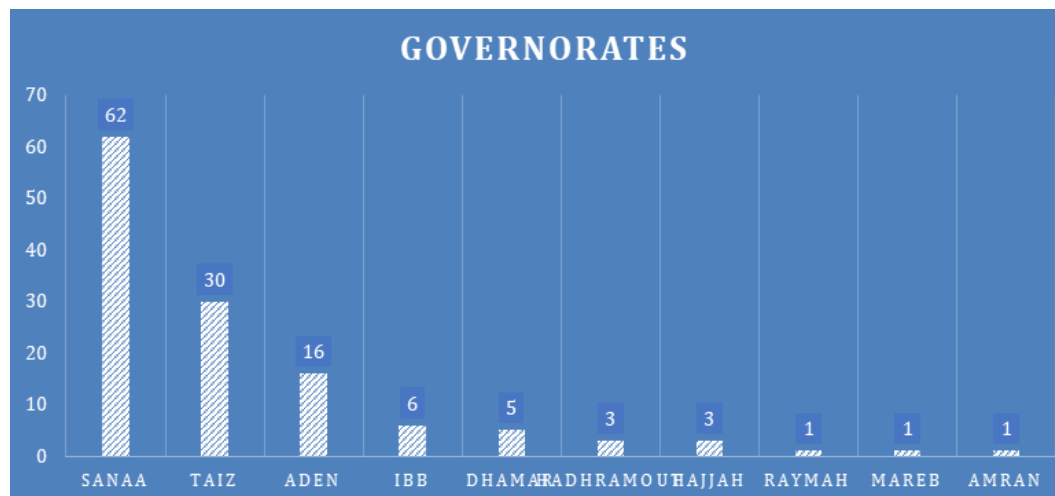
3.7 Online art contest participants analysis

N	ART	Number of participants
1	Writers	18
2	Drawers	16
3	Photographers	15
4	Graphic Designers	12
5	VR	1



- All participants from governorates level

N	Governorate	Number of participants
1	Sanaa	62
2	Taiz	30
3	Aden	16
4	Ibb	6
5	Dhamar	5
6	Hadhramout	3
7	Hajjah	3
8	Raymah	1
9	Mareb	1
10	Amran	1
	Total	128



**The Winners
work**



- Writing

Rehab Mohammed Saleh Haidrah



مرة .. في عمرة الأشغال الثقيل

سحبتني نسيم أخاذ ، ولم يتركني حتى ألقاني في كنف عشي أخضر خلاب

أغمضت عيني التي داعيتهما أشعة شمس دافئة مكسوة بلون الذهب البراق ...

فحذت عيني حيث كان علي الذهب ، كانت شمسنا الحزينة في خط مستقيم مع عيني حيث ولأول مرة لمست فيها الخذلان !..

إنها تأسف لكل النور الذي تهينا أباه ..

قالت بحق : لا يستحق النور من يغمي بصيرته ، ويغضض طرفه متعمداً ، لو كان الأمر بيدي لتركتم في الظلام ؛ حيث لا مجال للمزيد من الخراب ، أو لأشرقت في كوكب آخر حيث لا يتسنى لي الدخول في هذا المخاض ...

أشعني الدافئة المنبعثة لعمق النبات تبكي حين تدرك ما تحدثون من ضرر بهذا الخضار !..

أضنكم تدركون حجم عيكم في السماد وكل لهو في العقافير التي أبدلت أمننا خوفاً من نتاج طبيعة لا يليق بها أن تبعث لنا سوي الإطمئنان ، رغباً عنها حُفِّت بكل شيء ، صار ، لو كان لها خيار الحراك لتارت علينا فنحن في نظرها أشرار ...

إنعكاس شمسنا على البحيرة لم يعد صافي لامع كالزجاج ، عاقت صفاءه شوائب طمع الإنسان ، ذاك من حفر البئر واحد تلو الآخر دون حساب !

أرادت رثاتي المشاركة في هذا الحديث فهي ترمي أنها أكثر من يجب عليها الكلام ؛ حيث ملا اللوم ذئابها منذ وقتٍ طويل ، قالت بغضب : هَبِّتْ لاستقبال الأوكسجين ، فماتكم تدخلون لي كل هذا الهراء !..

صاح صوت أعلاها فإذا بالسماء حمراء تستثير غضباً ، يبدو أن الأوزون قد فاض به الحال ..

تغرته تزداد وسعاً يوماً بعد يوم .

مهماً جداً نهوضنا بالصناعات ولكن وجب الإدراك بأن الأهم أن ننهض بصناعاتنا دون أذية البيئة ، دون الإسهام في رفع درجة حرارة الأرض . إن نهضنا وجب علينا النهوض بدقة ، بأمان ، كقنينة الماء التي في يدي الآن وجب الإدراك أنها لمرّة أخرى غير قابلة للإستخدام ومن يحرقونها فيوعي أو دون وعي منهم يهدوننا مواد مسرطنة .. وقيسي يا أرض على ذلك ~

كلمة أخيرة للشمس : الأضرار التي تتجاهلونها كشيء لا يعينكم تغمركم بهدوء ، غداً تجنون صخبها رغباً عنكم ..

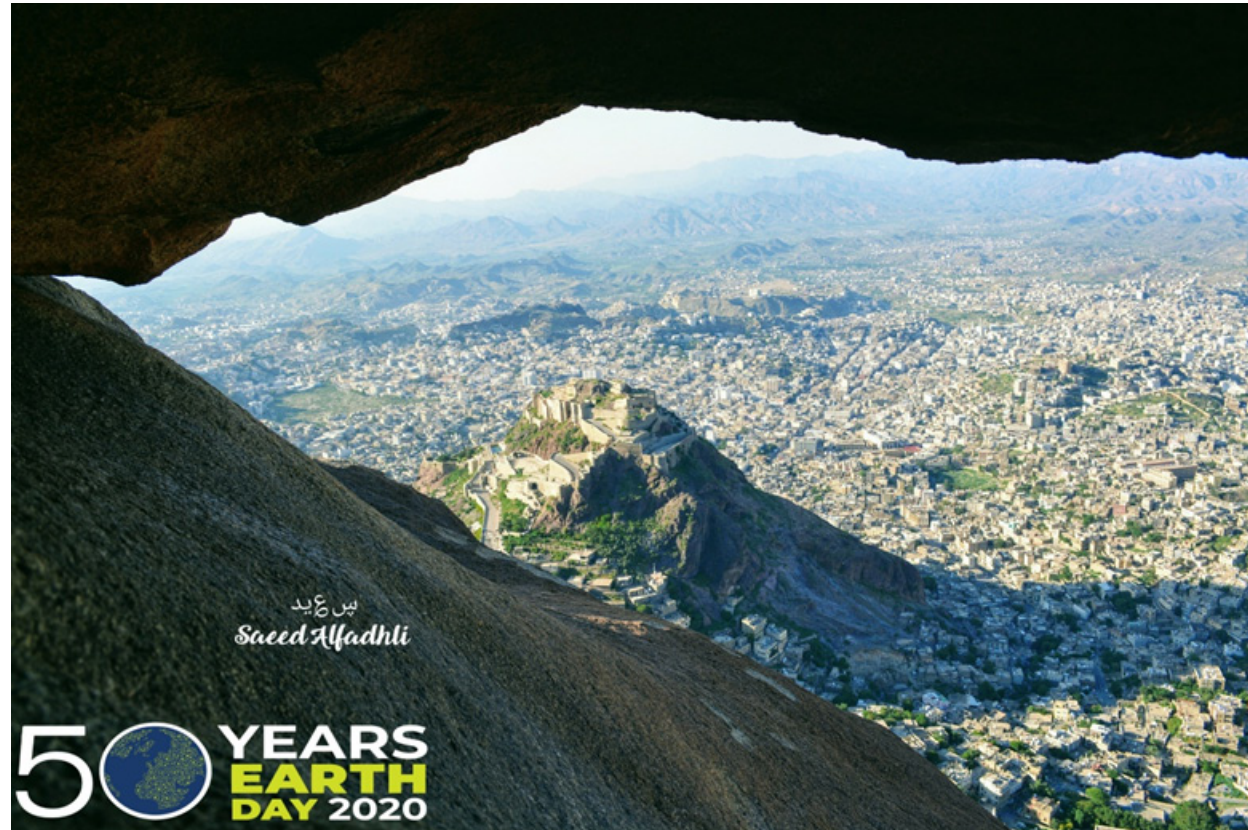
- Graphic Design



- Drawing



- Photography



- Virtual Reality



4. Challenges

- The project relies completely on the Internet (the targeted groups encounter technical difficulties)
- The project is based on online conversation using (ZOOM) which is a new way for young people in Yemen in general (45% of those enrolled in the seminars were absent)
- Participants in the online contest lack sufficient knowledge on local environmental issues (most of the artworks are discussing global environmental issues)



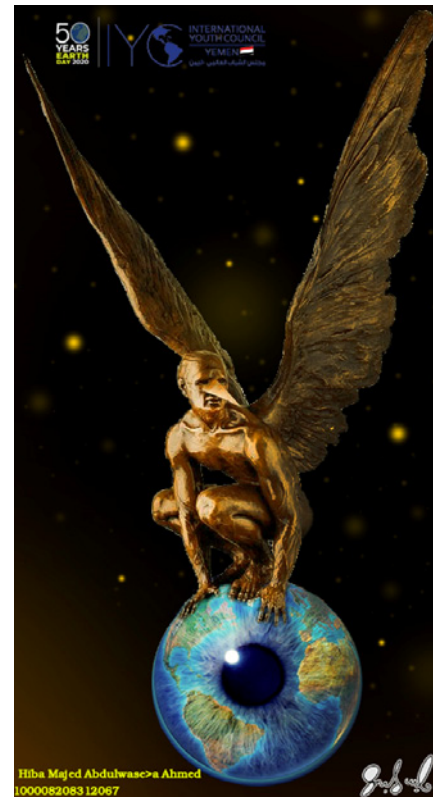
5. Lessons learned

- Target groups have a desire to apply, learn and work in future projects or activities targeting climate action, environmental education, and environmental awareness raising in Yemen.
- Target a bigger number of youth so that the number of participants who gets the chance to finish the seminar are higher.
- The participants in the online art contest needs to be provided with a quick guide which highlights the environmental issues and its impact on the environment.



6. Next steps

Create a youth-led initiative or platform which will be a part of the EECH program work. The platform will gather the interested participants from the seminars and the online art contest to come-up with online awareness raising content and activities. The intended project will contribute to raise awareness on climate change issues among Yemeni people and help to mobilize Yemeni youth to join the global environmental movement.



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