**VISIT TO THE SOLAR DECATHLON MIDDLE EAST**

The DNHG is organizing a trip to Solar Decathlon ME expo area on Saturday, 24 November from 10:30.A representative from DEWA will provide an introduction to the Solar Decathlon Middle East, after which the houses can be visited. The students are without fail enthusiastic about their particular houses, and will happily show you each house’s innovations and the concepts developed. This visit is open-ended as some of you may want to spend longer than others on site, but if you want to visit all the houses, count on 2.5 to 3 hours.

**The trip is limited to 30 participants**, and will be led by **Alexis Biller**. **Please email Barbara Van Meir on**barbaravmeir@hotmail.com if you are interested. Do indicate if you can accommodate passengers or if you would need a lift, and which area of Dubai you will start from.

 If more than 30 applications have been received by Wednesday noon, an innocent hand will select the lucky ones. If you have been selected you will receive an answer with details on the trip by Wednesday evening.

The Solar Decathlon is an international competition created by the U.S. Department of Energy in which universities from all over the world meet to design, build and operate a grid-connected, solar powered house.

The houses use solar energy as the only energy source and are equipped with all the technologies that permit maximum energy efficiency. During the final phase of the competition teams assemble their houses in a main expo area, open to the general public, while undergoing the 10 contests of the competition, the reason for which this event is called Decathlon. (‘Deca’ derives from Greek and means ten).

The first Solar Decathlon was held in 2002 and previous additions have been organized in different areas including the U.S, Europe and China. In 2015, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, and the U.S. Department of Energy signed an agreement to collaborate on the development of Solar Decathlon Middle East (SDME 2018-2020), a competition that integrates unique local and regional characteristics. Finalists of the first edition of SDME have been selected and have now built their houses at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park.

**Middle East Climate**

The SDME 2018 embraces the goal of developing and promoting ideas, capacities and technologies that can be implemented for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Middle East region. Each project is a good response to our cultural, climatic and social contexts, as well as a high-performance prototype that should successfully perform during the period of time during which it compares with others. All proposals have been focused on solving issues and needs for sustainable living in this region, where high temperatures, high humidity and dust condition our daily lives during most part of the year.

**Decathlon**

The 10 Contests are:

1.     Architecture

2.     Comfort Conditions

3.     Communication

4.     Energy Efficiency

5.     Energy Management

6.     Engineering and Construction

7.     House Functioning

8.     Innovation

9.     Sustainable Transportation

10.  Sustainability

**Finalists**

Multidisciplinary teams from universities from Australia, France, Italy, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Palestine, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United States, are on hand to show you around their houses at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park.