

**IMYB
UAE 2024**



**BEEKEEPING
IN ARID LANDS**

POST EVENT REPORT




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IMYB UAE 2024 **“BEEKEEPING IN ARID LANDS”**

INTRODUCTION

Click on the photo! 



The **Beekeepers Foundation UAE**, in collaboration with the **International Centre for Young Beekeepers**, was honored to host the **13th International Meeting for Young Beekeepers** last December 2024, an event dedicated to celebrating the future of beekeeping and the passion that unites the global community. This gathering provided an invaluable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the promotion of sustainable beekeeping practices worldwide.

IMYB UAE 2024 marked a significant milestone as the first time IMYB was held outside of Europe. We were thrilled to have welcomed young beekeepers and mentors from 20 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe, *including new nations from South Africa, China, Turkey, Bulgaria and Oman, making this the most culturally diverse gathering in IMYB’s history.*

This event would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of the Event Organizers, Mentors, Young Beekeepers, Facilitators, Esteemed Speakers, Partners, Sponsors, Embassies, Special Guests, and Participants, all of whom played a crucial role in creating a dynamic space for networking and collaboration.



ABOUT IMYB

IMYB (International Meeting of Young Beekeepers®)

- World's largest gathering of young beekeepers
- Annual competition
- Unique platform for young beekeeping enthusiasts worldwide
- Fosters global networks and shares best practices

ORGANIZED BY:

- ICYB (International Centre of Young Beekeepers), a non-profit organization from the Czech Republic, dedicated to supporting young beekeepers worldwide

SINCE 2010:

- Over 1,000 young beekeepers have participated
- Participants from more than 43 different countries represented their national colors

IMYB UAE 2024 OVERVIEW

EVENT:	13 th International Meeting of Young Beekeepers IMYB UAE 2024 (International Meeting of Young Beekeepers®)
HOST COUNTRY:	United Arab Emirates
LOCAL ORGANIZER:	Beekeepers Foundation, UAE
EVENT DATE:	18 – 22 Dec 2024
PARTICIPANTS:	Delegation from 20 Countries: 53 Young Beekeepers, aged 12 – 18 years old 38 Mentors 10 international facilitators, aged 18 – 25 years old
ACCOMMODATION:	KSK Homes Student Residence and Hotel, Dubai
EVENT VENUE:	Dubai Creek and Golf Club, Dubai

IMYB UAE 2024 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

AFRICA	1. SOUTH AFRICA*	EUROPE	9. AUSTRIA
AMERICAS	2. CANADA		10. BULGARIA*
ASIA	3. CHINA *		11. Czech Republic
	4. INDIA		12. England
	5. JORDAN		13. Germany
	6. KAZAKHSTAN		14. Malta
	7. OMAN*		15. Northern Ireland
	8. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		16. Romania
			17. Scotland
			18. Slovakia
			19. Slovenia
			20. Turkey*

*New Participating Countries

LOCAL ORGANIZING TEAM



Zahira Nedjraoui

Host

- Founder & President, Beekeepers Foundation UAE
- Vice-president of Apimondia Asian Regional Commission
- Beekeeping Educator
- Architect, Construction Manager



Joy Christine M.C.

Lead Organizer

- Sustainable Events Management Expert
- Partnership and Collaboration Strategist
- Program Development Architect & Project Lead
- Stakeholder Management Expert



Zahra Sadat Arzanforoosh

Lead Beekeeper

- Beekeeping Educator and Trainer
- Queen Rearing and Colony Management Expert
- Apiculture Research Specialist
- Masters in Beekeeping Sciences



Shayista Yousuf

Lead Educator

- Entomologist and Beekeeping researcher
- Educator on Apiculture in SKUAST-Kashmir
- Sustainable management of invasive plants- Researcher
- Moderator and Writer- research articles on sustainable global food security



Manali Soparkar

Lead Coordinator

- Sustainable Freelancer
- Mentor at IMYB 2023 Slovenia (Team UAE)
- Educator on Green Living workshops
- Senior volunteer at the Beekeepers Foundation UAE



Anya Soparkar

Coordinator

- High school student
- Participant at IMYB 2023 Slovenia (Team UAE)
- Novice beekeeper
- Volunteer at the Beekeepers Foundation UAE



Muna Elsidig Galal Eldin

Coordinator

- Nahala Participant (Novice, Entrepreneurship)
- Medical student
- Part of the Family Honey Business
- 5th year of beekeeping



Marita Peters

Coordinator

- Executive Director, Surge for Water Middle East
- Beekeeper, educator, and Board Member of the Beekeepers Foundation UAE
- Bachelor of Commerce, Accounting and Management
-



THE JUDGING PANEL

هيئة أبوظبي للزراعة والسلامة الغذائية
ABU DHABI AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
SAFETY AUTHORITY 


SANAD AD

 **Hive Consulting**

Dr. Saad Hamdy Masry
ADAFSA
Dr. Ihsan Joma
ADAFSA
Dr. Hamed Al Thani
ADAFSA

Dr. James Arruda Salome
SANAD AD

MSc. Nicholas Bishop
Hive Consulting

EVENT PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Event Partner



Our Sponsors



IMYB UAE 2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD

Meet & Greet		
08:00 – 17:00	KSK Homes	Arrivals & Welcome kits
15:00 – 16:30	KSK Homes	- Facilitators Meeting - Judges Meeting
17:00 – 19:30	KSK Homes	Meet & Greet + Dinner
19:30 – 20:30	KSK Homes	Lecture: Sustainable Beekeeping in Arid Lands. By Dr. Saad and Dr. James

Day 1		
7:00 – 8:00	KSK Homes	Breakfast
9:30 – 12:00	Creek Club	Opening Ceremony
12:30 – 13:30	Creek Club	Lunch time
14:00 – 17:30	Creek Club	- Individual Competition - Mentors Presentations
19:00 – 20:00	KSK Homes	Dinner
20:00 – 22:00	KSK Homes	Cultural Presentations

Day 2		
7:00 – 8:00	KSK Homes	Breakfast
9:30 – 12:00	Creek Club	- Teams Competition - Mentors Presentations
12:30 – 14:00	Creek Club	Lunch time
14:00 – 17:30	Creek Club	Country Competition (open to mentors too!)
19:00 – 20:00	KSK Homes	Dinner
20:00 – 22:00	KSK Homes	Cultural Presentations

Day 3		
7:00 – 8:00	KSK Homes	Breakfast
8:00 – 12:30	Ras Khaimah	Visit to Wadi Al Bees Bee Farm in Ras Al Khaimah
12:30 – 13:30	KSK Homes	Lunch time
14:30 – 22:00	Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve	Desert Safari & Award Ceremony
10:30 – ZZZ...	KSK Homes	Back to sleep

Day 4		
DEPARTURES		

THE OPENING CEREMONY



The IMYB UAE 2024 opening ceremony unfolded in the luxurious and elegant surroundings of Park Hyatt Dubai, setting the stage for an event that seamlessly blended tradition, inspiration, and purpose. Guests were welcomed with the *Ayala* performance, a traditional Emirati cultural dance that symbolizes unity and heritage.



The ceremony featured a **Parade of Nations**, where the delegations from the 20 countries proudly showcased their flags, reflecting the global unity and collaboration that IMYB symbolizes. Ambassadors from several participating countries also attended the ceremony, offering their support and encouragement to their national teams, further highlighting the international importance of this event.



Distinguished speakers shared valuable insights, and insisted on the importance of youth empowerment and sustainable practices in the beekeeping and environmental sectors.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Salman Al Hammadi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Food Diversity Sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE), delivered an impactful opening address. He highlighted the critical importance of empowering youth initiatives in the beekeeping industry and their pivotal role in shaping a resilient and sustainable future for the sector.



Dr. Kayan Akram Jaff, Officer-in-Charge of the UN FAO Subregional Office for the GCC States and Yemen, underscored the vital contribution of sustainable beekeeping to advancing food security and biodiversity, particularly in arid regions like the UAE.



Ms. Ayshka Najib, UNICEF Youth Advocate to the UAE and Youth Lead for Feminist Action for Climate Justice under the UN Women Generation Equality Forum, delivered an inspiring message. She passionately called on young individuals to take the lead in championing climate justice and driving sustainable environmental practices, framing youth as the vanguards of transformative global action.



The ceremony also included opening and closing remarks from **Ms. Zahira Nedjraoui**, President of the Beekeepers Foundation and host of IMYB UAE 2024. Her speeches reflected gratitude and optimism, celebrating the event's milestone achievements and setting an aspirational tone for the days ahead. **Mr. Jiri Piza**, representing IMYB's global community, added his insights, reinforcing the importance of international collaboration in fostering excellence among young beekeepers.

As a warm welcome gesture, honey gifts were presented to the guests by the Nahalas, Emirati women beekeepers from our Women Empowerment Program, who played an integral role in supporting and contributing to the success of IMYB.

The opening ceremony was a harmonious blend of culture, advocacy, and celebration, setting the tone for an unforgettable IMYB UAE 2024 and reinforcing the event's commitment to empowering the next generation of beekeepers.

BEEKEEPING IN ARID LANDS LECTURES

As part of IMYB UAE 2024, under the theme “Beekeeping in Arid Lands”, lectures were introduced to familiarize participants with the unique challenges and opportunities of beekeeping in the UAE's arid environment.



Dr. Saad Almasry

Lead Researcher, ADAFSA, UAE

Email: saad.masry@adafsa.gov.ae

Website: <https://www.adafsa.gov.ae>

Dr. Saad delivered an insightful lecture titled Bees & Beekeeping in Arid Lands, shedding light on the adaptive behaviors and management strategies necessary for a thriving beekeeping in harsh climates. His lecture emphasized on ADAFSA's innovative initiative focuses on the development of "Emirati Bees", selected from the native and resilient *Apis mellifera jemenitica*. This initiative has effectively doubled the opportunities for queen rearing by adding an autumn season to the traditional spring cycle, thus reinforcing the bee populations and their productivity. The program's success is reflected in the thriving bee colonies, which are not only better equipped to withstand the intense summer heat but also serve as a model for beekeeping in similar arid regions. By enhancing local bee genetics and implementing strategic breeding practices, ADAFSA is ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of beekeeping in the UAE.

View our Summary Report on Dr. Saad's Presentation: Click [HERE](#)



Dr. Aliya Sajwani

Honey Researcher & Melissopalynology Expert, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

Email: mygarden246@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.squ.edu.om/>

Dr. Aliya's presentation at IMYB 2024 highlighted her groundbreaking research in melissopalynology, focusing on the use of Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) to study the pollen composition of Omani honeys. Her work revealed Oman's rich floral diversity, identifying 74 pollen types from 105 catalogued floral species, emphasizing the importance of seasonal nectar sources for sustainable beekeeping. By introducing advanced techniques for pollen analysis, Dr. Aliya provided valuable insights into honey quality control, authenticity, and the potential for expanding beekeeping in Oman. Her research supports sustainable practices and offers a critical foundation for the future of honey production in the region.

View our Summary Report on Dr. Alya's Presentation: Click [HERE](#)

These lectures not only deepened participants' understanding of local beekeeping practices but also showcased the importance of native resources and of aligning with the environment to ensure sustainability.

COMPETITION DETAILED SCHEDULE

DATE	COMPETITION TYPE	TIME	PROGRAM - COMPETITION	HONEY STORY	MENTOR - PROGRAM
Day 1 19-Dec-24	Individual Competition part 1	14:00 - 14:50	Theory Test (50 questions - 50 points)	Judging	Dr. Alia Presentation: GCC Flora
	Individual Competition part 2	15:00 - 15:10	Bee Biology (10 points)		Mentors Presentations
		15:10 - 15:20	Bee Pathology (10 points)		
		15:20 - 15:30	Honey Tasting (15 points)		
		15:30 - 15:40	Honey Analysis (15 points)		
15:40 - 16:00	Coffee Break				

DATE	COMPETITION TYPE	TIME	PROGRAM - COMPETITION	Frame Making (20 points)	Arid Lands Challenges (20 points)	Hive Inspection (20 points)	Drone Marking (20 points)	Bee Genetics (20 points)	MENTOR - PROGRAM		
Day 2 20-Dec-24	Team Competition	9:30 - 10:00	Teams Competition - Round 1	Beige, Emirates Green	Gray, Lime Green	Orange, Sky Blue	Purple, Turquoise	Royal Blue, Yellow	Mentors Presentations		
		10:00 - 10:30	Teams Competition - Round 2	Royal Blue, Yellow	Beige, Emirates Green	Gray, Lime Green	Orange, Sky Blue	Purple, Turquoise			
		10:30 - 11:00	Teams Competition - Round 3	Purple, Turquoise	Royal Blue, Yellow	Beige, Emirates Green	Gray, Lime Green	Orange, Sky Blue			
		Coffee Break									
		11:00 - 11:30	Teams Competition - Round 4	Orange, Sky Blue	Purple, Turquoise	Royal Blue, Yellow	Beige, Emirates Green	Gray, Lime Green			
	12:00 - 12:30	Teams Competition - Round 5	Gray, Lime Green	Orange, Sky Blue	Purple, Turquoise	Royal Blue, Yellow	Beige, Emirates Green				
	Country Competition	12:30 - 14:00	Lunch Break								
		14:00 - 17:00	Arid Lands Contest Presentations	Each country has 9 minutes to present their solution					Mentors visit to Rolls-Royce Apiary & Roundtable Discussion		

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Part 1: 50 multiple choice questions. 30% of the questions were on Arid Lands' theme (15 questions.)

Part 2: A set of theory & practice challenges:

1. Bee Biology
2. Bee Pathology
3. Honey Tasting
4. Honey Quality Analysis

View Full Ranking: Click [HERE](#)

View Full Questionnaires: Click [HERE](#)

GOLD WINNER

JAN KOPÁČEK

15 years old
Czech Republic



SILVER WINNERS

REBECCA WOOD

17 years old
Canada

ADAM ŠIMONÍK

15 years old
Czech Republic



MIXED TEAM COMPETITION

The team competition consisted of five distinct activities:

STATION 1	STATION 2	STATION 3	STATION 4	STATION 5
Drone Marking	Arid Lands Challenges	Frame Making	Bee Genetics	Hive Inspection

Each station was designed to accommodate two teams at the same time. The participants were divided into 10 teams, with each team rotating between activities every 30 minutes. The competition followed a rotation plan, ensuring that each team participated in every activity once over the course of 5 rounds.

View Full Ranking: Click [HERE](#)

View Score Sheets & Questionnaires: Click [HERE](#)

GOLD WINNER

TEAM LIME GREEN

- ADAM ŠIMONÍK, 15 years old, Czech Republic
- EMINALI ATAYOGLU, 16 years old, Turkey
- KILIAN STEER, 15 years old, Austria
- LEAH BORG, 17 years old, Malta
- LUKAS KLABJAN, 15 years old, Slovenia
- MICHELLE JOSE, 17 years old, India



SILVER WINNER

TEAM ORANGE

- ALYA ALKHAMISI, 13 years old, UAE
- BEN MARSHALL, 17 years old, Canada
- IBRAHIM DAOUR, 15 years old, Jordan
- LUCAS PRÜTTING, 14 years old, Germany
- MARIONELA VELIZAROVA, 16 years old, Bulgaria
- TOBY MCCREA, 17 years old, Northern Ireland



BRONZE WINNER

TEAM EMIRATES GREEN

- DARIUS BORZ, 16 years old, Romania
- ELIJA RAAB, 13 years old, Austria
- GHAITH ALALI, 12 years old, UAE
- NIKOL GOSPODINOVA, 15 years old, Bulgaria
- ROCCO CROFT-SENIOR, 14 years old, England
- THEA ZAMMIT, 17 years old, Malta



COUNTRY COMPETITION

Two new contests were introduced at IMYB, where each country prepared in advance and presented their work during the competition, highlighting their expertise and innovative approaches in beekeeping.

- **Beekeeping in Arid Lands Challenges:** Participants were provided with three distinct challenges, from which they selected one to develop a practical solution. A detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed solution was then submitted and presented to the judges.
- **The Honey Story:** This contest challenged participants to craft a compelling narrative about their honey, showcasing its journey through creative storytelling and visual elements. Using the HiveTracks platform, participants gain valuable marketing skills to connect with future customers.

View Full Ranking: Click [HERE](#)

View All Submissions: Click [HERE](#)

GOLD WINNER

TEAM MALTA

Mentors

JORGE SPITERI
MARIA ATTARD

Young Beekeepers

LEAH BORG
MARK MUSCAT
THEA ZAMMIT



SILVER WINNER

TEAM GERMANY

Mentors

MATTHAIS BOHMANN
STEFAN HUBMANN

Young Beekeepers

JANNIK BOHMANN
JOSHUA PFADENHAUER
LUCAS PRÜTTING



BRONZE WINNER

TEAM UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mentors

AMEENA BINKALLI,
MASHAER HASSANEIN

Young Beekeepers

AISHA ALMARZOOQI
ALYA ALKHAMISI
GAITH ALALI



CULTURAL COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

Participants were given the freedom to select a medium (song, dance, skit, or game) that was considered to best represent their culture. This approach fostered diverse and vibrant presentations, which were often designed to involve the audience, making the experience more immersive and memorable.

GOLD WINNER – *Best Creativity*

SLOVAKIA

Mentors EVA KOVÁČOVÁ
LADISLAV PONGRÁČZ

Young Beekeepers MELINDA SLÁDKOVÁ
SAMUEL GABRIŠ
SAMUEL VRÁBEL



SILVER WINNER – *Best Team Spirit*

NORTHERN IRELAND

Mentors CHARLENE ABRAHAM
SUSIE HILL

Young Beekeepers SARAH KANE
TOBY MCCREA
BERTIE MCCREA



BRONZE WINNER – *Best Message*

INDIA

Mentors LORETTA ANDRADE

Young Beekeepers MICHELLE JOSE



MENTORS PRESENTATIONS

This significant gathering of global apiculture experts served as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation in the field of beekeeping.

Ten-minute sessions allowed mentors to share insights into their beekeeping practices, focusing on modernizing apiculture techniques to enhance honey production, improve colony health, address challenges, and ensure the sustainability of beekeeping practices. The diverse representation of regions enriched the discussions, fostering cross-cultural learning and the exchange of best practices.

Moving forward, it is vital to build on the momentum generated by IMYB to sustain the energy and efforts throughout the year. A roundtable discussion during the event brought together mentors and organizers to brainstorm initiatives that could achieve this goal.

Ideas included creating a forum discussion via WhatsApp to share updates on major events, developing a Young Beekeepers Ambassadors Program to strengthen the network, and organizing more opportunities for young beekeepers to connect throughout the year. Additionally, participants proposed engaging global institutions such as the UN FAO and UNESCO to support IMYB and ICYB in reaching underprivileged countries, ensuring wider inclusivity and impact. These discussions underscored the importance of sustained collaboration and innovation to further the mission of inspiring and empowering the next generation of beekeepers.

View All Presentations: *Please click on the respective country name below to access the corresponding presentation file.*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| AUSTRIA | ENGLAND | MALTA | SLOVAKIA |
| BULGARIA | GERMANY | NORTHERN IRELAND | SLOVENIA |
| CANADA | INDIA | OMAN | SOUTH AFRICA |
| CHINA | JORDAN | ROMANIA | TURKEY |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | KAZAKHSTAN | SCOTLAND | UAE |



THE CLOSING DAY



The IMYB UAE 2024 concluded on the 21st of December 2024, marking the end of a 2-day intense program and competition. This final day was filled with excitement, exploration, and celebration.

MORNING: Participants had the chance to hop on the bus tour to experience the vibrant city of Dubai, explore its iconic landmarks and immerse in the local culture. From scenic tours to bustling markets, the day was filled with fun and adventure, offering a true taste of the Dubai's rich heritage.



AFTERNOON: What would be a trip to Dubai without a taste of the desert?! The group ventured out to the stunning Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, 45km outside the city. The reserve, the UAE's first national park, covers the largest protected area of land in the country. Participants were captivated by the mesmerizing beauty of Dubai's desert landscape and had the unique opportunity to spot Arabian Oryx, gazelles, and other species native to the Arabian Peninsula.



EVENING: The adventure continued at Al Waha Camp, where attendees experienced the thrill of dune bashing, camel riding, and traditional activities like henna tattoos and falcon handling.



We ended the day in a celebratory **Gala Dinner** that brought together participants, mentors, and sponsors. The highlight of the evening was the **Award Ceremony**, where the achievements of the participants were celebrated. Winners were honored for their dedication, creativity, and outstanding performance throughout the competition. This final moment of recognition perfectly capped off the IMYB UAE 2024 experience, marking an unforgettable conclusion to this special gathering. It is with great pride that we passed the baton to Northern Ireland, the host of the 14th IMYB in the summer of 2026.

IMYB UAE 2024 – REFLECTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

IMYB UAE 2024 has been hailed as a resounding success, earning widespread praise from participants for its exceptional organization, seamless execution, and introduction of innovative elements that elevated the competition to new heights.

Furthermore, this analysis serves as a starting point for ongoing collaboration with mentors and year-round discussions to collectively identify and implement solutions that enhance future editions of the event.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Introduction of New Competition Categories

The **Country Competition** was a standout innovation introduced at IMYB 2024, comprising two key challenges: the **Theme Challenge** (focused on "Beekeeping in Arid Lands") and the **Honey Story** segment. This category required each country to prepare in advance, conduct research, and present their findings during the competition. By emphasizing preparation and exploration, it encouraged participants to deepen their understanding of global beekeeping issues, engage in critical thinking, and collaborate effectively.

The **Beekeeping in Arid Lands Challenge** immersed young beekeepers in real-world challenges faced by other nations, prompting them to devise innovative and practical solutions. Their high-level responses demonstrated remarkable creativity and problem-solving abilities. It successfully instilled a global perspective and reinforced the participants' roles as future leaders in the beekeeping community.

Additionally, the **Honey Story** segment, developed in partnership with **Hivetracks**, challenged participants to combine creative storytelling with sales and marketing strategies. By crafting compelling narratives around the journey of honey, participants demonstrated their ability to captivate audiences and highlight the unique value of their products. As part of this collaboration, Hivetracks generously provided **an annual subscription** to their platform, a tool we highly encourage participants and their young beekeepers to utilize throughout the year to enhance their storytelling, marketing, and beekeeping management skills.

Digital Integration and Scoring Management

IMYB 2024 marked a significant milestone with the transition from traditional paper-based exams to a fully digital platform. This innovation streamlined competition management and scoring, offering both participants and organizers enhanced efficiency and transparency.

The adoption of **Quizizz**, a widely recognized platform in the UAE, played a pivotal role. Its user-friendly interface and responsive customer support allowed us to tailor the competition to our needs. Features such as randomized questions and staggered timing minimized the risk of cheating.

Participants benefited greatly from real-time performance feedback, which allowed them to immediately identify their strengths and areas for improvement. This feature not only enhanced their experience but also promoted self-awareness and growth.

The integration of digital tools transformed scoring and result sharing, enhancing transparency and efficiency. Individualized performance feedback enabled participants to identify strengths and areas for

improvement while providing mentors with valuable insights for future training. Clear, accessible score displays and streamlined sharing saves time, minimizes errors, and builds trust. This data-driven approach modernized the event and reinforces the competition's integrity for all participants.

Mentor Roundtable Discussion

The **Mentor Roundtable Discussion** at IMYB 2024 was a forward-looking brainstorming session focused on maintaining connection and engagement throughout the year. It highlighted the importance of the IMYB platform and the need to elevate its stature to become a leading force in the global stage.

To build on this momentum and strengthen IMYB's role, several initiatives were suggested:

- Establish a WhatsApp group to encourage ongoing communication among mentors
- Engage with international organizations like UN FAO, UNESCO, and UNICEF to amplify IMYB's mission and secure broader support for youth-focused beekeeping initiatives
- Launch youth ambassador programs to empower the young beekeepers as representatives, advocates, and leaders in their communities and beyond
- Sharing of each country's key events and initiatives to promote connections and collaboration
- Create opportunities for youth to meet—either in person or virtually—through regional gatherings, exchange programs, or online forums, promoting cultural exchange and collective learning.

These steps will solidify IMYB's position as a leading platform for youth empowerment and ensure continued engagement, knowledge-sharing, and growth within the global community.

Introduction of a Rotating Plaque

A new and meaningful tradition was introduced at IMYB 2024 with the launch of a **Rotating Plaque** for Hosts. This plaque, passed from one host nation to the next, symbolizes the shared commitment and collaborative spirit of the IMYB community.

The Rotating Plaque promotes a sense of pride among hosts and also reinforces the continuity and legacy of IMYB as a global initiative.

LESSONS LEARNED

Resource Constraints

A one-year preparation period proved insufficient to secure adequate funding and sponsorships. This limited the event's scale to 20 countries and placed significant strain on the organization's financial resources.

Recommendation: Begin funding and sponsorship efforts well in advance, targeting potential sponsors with detailed proposals and sponsorship packages. Secure commitments early to reduce financial strain and allow for a more inclusive event.

Language Barriers

Using English as the standard medium ensured consistency but presented challenges for non-English-speaking participants, especially with technical terminology. Although tools like Quizizz and AI provided translations with 80-90% accuracy, their limitations in handling specialized terminology led to their exclusion. During the event, facilitators relied on tools like Google Translate to assist participants, but the absence of a comprehensive and reliable translation strategy left noticeable gaps. Additionally, concerns about content leakage prevented involving local beekeepers for translations.

Recommendation:

- Collaborate with bilingual beekeeping experts to ensure the accuracy of technical terminology in event materials. Use non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) to safeguard competition integrity.
 - Distribute multilingual glossaries or guides of key technical terms before the competition to help participants prepare.
 - Assign bilingual facilitators to assist during activities, ensuring participants can clarify instructions in real-time.
 - Develop dual-language versions of exam materials, where feasible, to enhance clarity.
 - Approved translation tools with specialized dictionaries, enabling participants to securely look up key terms during the event.
 - Test translation strategies in smaller-scale events to refine approaches and identify potential challenges before full implementation.
-

Technology Integration

Advanced technology, such as tablets, was integrated into the competition to streamline processes like conducting exams and publishing results in real-time. While this modern approach improved efficiency, a connectivity issue led to disruptions and unnecessary stress at the beginning of the competition.

Recommendation:

- Seek sponsorships to fund the purchase or rental of tablets for digital examinations. Alternatively, since iMYB typically takes place during school holidays, consider partnering with schools to borrow their unused tablets for the event
 - Conduct extensive real-life testing of technology to address any potential issues before the event
 - Validate the reliability of internet connections and other technical infrastructures to prevent disruptions and ensure smooth operations
 - Inform the participants well in advance of the format/platform the competition will adopt to allow them to experiment, test and familiarize themselves with the technology so they are well prepared during the competition
 - Share individual test results with mentors for further evaluation and practice.
-

Special Needs

During the competition, we discovered that one participant had dyslexia, which caused significant distress due to the strict timing of the tasks. In response, we allowed facilitators to provide assistance and extended the time limit, which helped alleviate the immediate issue. However, had we been informed earlier, we could have optimized Quizizz, which offers features tailored to conditions such as dyslexia, and implemented appropriate measures to avoid unnecessary distress.

Recommendation: Include a section in the participant questionnaire to gather information about specific needs or conditions (e.g., dyslexia or other learning differences). Develop a plan to accommodate such requirements in advance, leveraging tools and strategies like Quizizz's accessibility features to ensure a more inclusive and supportive environment for all participants.

Underutilization of Facilitators

This year, facilitators were assigned to specific activity stations instead of individual teams, allowing for task specialization and reducing the risk of bias. Feedback indicates facilitators appreciated this approach, with many voluntarily rotating to experience different activities.

However, concerns about content leakage made us hesitant to share competition details in advance. While this caution would apply regardless of the new format, the lack of preparation time prevented facilitators from unlocking their full potential and contributing as effectively as they could have.

Recommendations:

- Develop a clear and strict selection process for facilitators, prioritizing trustworthiness, experience, and commitment. Complement this with legally binding agreements, such as NDAs, to ensure confidentiality and allow early sharing of competition content for proper training
 - Introduce a tiered facilitator system, where a core group of 4-5 senior facilitators is involved in pre-event planning and training, while others join closer to the event to support specific activities.
 - Require facilitators to arrive 1-2 days in advance to participate in comprehensive training sessions.
-

Challenging Questions

The competition, particularly the Individual, featured advanced-level questions to test participants' in-depth knowledge, adding prestige to the event. However, many participants found these questions overly difficult, particularly those facing language barriers, which impacted their ability to perform. The complexity also appeared to stretch the age gap between participants aged 12 and 18. After analyzing the results by age, it was observed that the difficulty level naturally balanced the gaps, resulting in minimal disparities (refer to the Full Ranking link on [page 12](#)).

Recommendation: While the current approach effectively levelled the playing field, consideration could be given to the introduction of two difficulty levels for the individual competition (e.g., under 15 and 15-18 years) to better accommodate differences in expertise and engagement levels. This could enhance inclusivity while maintaining the competition's rigor and prestige.

Streamlined Voting for Cultural Presentations

The voting process for cultural presentations faced challenges in fairness and transparency. Allowing delegations to vote posed a risk of biased results, prompting the integration of organizers' and judges' votes as a counterbalance. However, we recognize that our focus was more heavily weighted on the technical competitions, which resulted in less attention to optimizing the voting protocol for cultural presentations. Moving forward, we see this as an opportunity to refine and enhance this aspect of the event.

Recommendation: Implement a more transparent and efficient voting system by introducing digital platforms or voting apps with predefined criteria. To enhance fairness, ensure votes are cast immediately after each presentation while details are fresh. Consider involving a mix of audience participation and judge evaluations to create a balanced and engaging process.

CONCLUSION

This report has celebrated achievements while transparently addressing challenges, reframing them as opportunities for growth. The actionable recommendations outlined aim to guide future hosts in elevating IMYB further.

IMYB stands as more than just a competition—it is a platform for youth empowerment, global collaboration, and the advancement of beekeeping as a vital practice for our planet's future. By building on this year's successes and embracing the lessons learned, IMYB will continue to inspire, connect, and shape the next generation of beekeeping leaders.

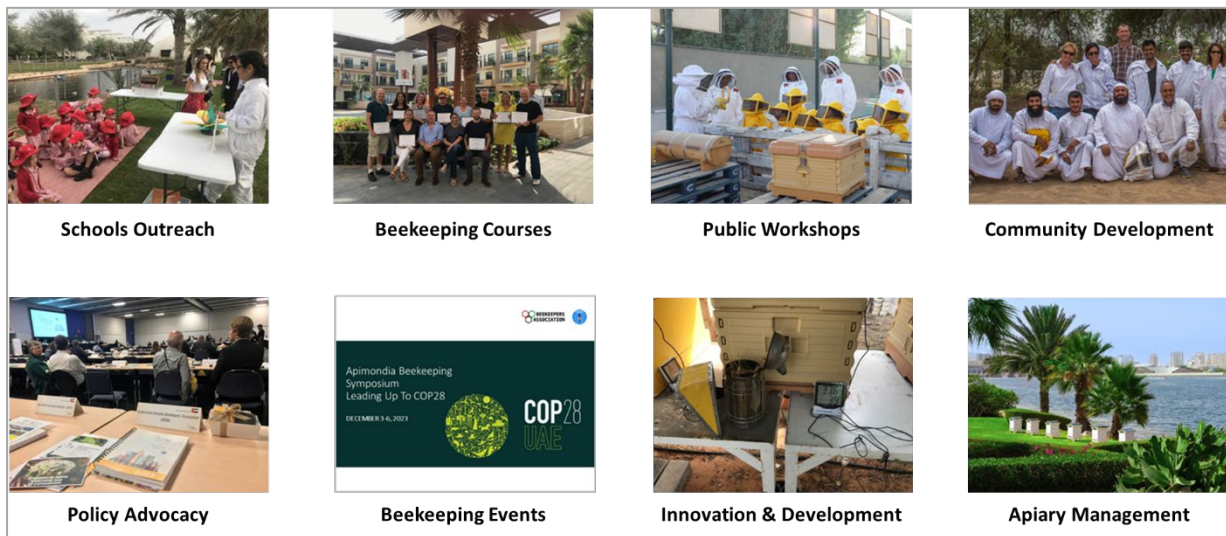
ABOUT THE BEEKEEPERS FOUNDATION

The **Beekeepers Foundation** is a non-profit organization that focuses on education and sustainable beekeeping. It was established in 2017 and is governed by the Community Development Authority (CDA). 100% of our proceeds go directly to the Foundation to further future education initiatives.

OUR MISSION

- To educate the UAE public on the vital role of bees
- To gain 'protected status' for the native honeybee *Apis mellifera jemenitica*
- To promote sustainable beekeeping best practices in the UAE
- To provide educational support for UAE based beekeepers and encourage new beekeepers into the field
- To promote the excellence of UAE honey to the global market
- To contribute to the objectives of the UAE National Food Security Strategy 2051

OUR ACTIVITIES



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