

Exchange programme introduces Al Ain to German students

A group of female students from the Institute of Geography at Universität Duisburg-Essen in Germany were in Al Ain last month as part of a cultural exchange and fact-finding trip.

The goal of the exchange was to improve cultural understanding through scientific learning.

The 13 German students, all at either Bachelor or Master level, are specialising in economic geography. Their week-long visit was a return invitation from the Department of Geography and Urban Planning at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU).

The UAEU student delegation visited Germany in August on a similar exchange, and, along



The visiting students gave cultural presentations to the geography club at UAEU



A field trip to an oasis was a highlight of the students' trip

with participants from the American University of Ras Al Khaimah, they examined a variety of topics including the tourism industry in the Ruhr (Germany) area and its contribution to structural transformation.

The German ladies spent a few days prior to their Al Ain trip, on fact-finding visits to Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah, eventually arriving here on October 10.

During their week-long Garden City stay, they gave cultural presentations and were immersed in a programme which included

workshops at UAEU, as well as excursions to Al Foah Date Factory, Al Ain Dairy, and a visit to Al Ain Municipality's town planning department.

They were also guided around a date palm oasis, and learnt about the early falaj system of irrigation which proved to be a highly popular part of their trip. A visit to Al Ain Palace Museum was another highlight and they even had

the opportunity to view Al Ain from the top of Jebel Hafeet and enjoy a city tour amongst many other experiences!

On the penultimate day of their UAE stay, the German delegation visited Abu Dhabi where, on their itinerary, were visits to Saadiyat Island and the Corniche.

The students were accompanied by their Professor, Dr Rudolf Jechelka from Universität Duisburg-Essen's Geography Department and Assistant Professor, Janine Bittner, who coordinated the programme.