

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS



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ABOUT VOICES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Voices of Sustainability is a thought leadership platform launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize to explore the challenges and opportunities of the global transition to an inclusive and

prosperous future. Each month, the series hosts the world's thought leaders to discuss the latest trends and themes in the sustainability agenda.



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INTRODUCTION

The Zayed Sustainability Prize's 31st episode of Voices of Sustainability, titled 'Celebrating Sustainable Success: Turning Vision into Reality,' was a highlight in the Prize Pavilion programming at COP28 UAE. This episode featured this cycle's organisational winners: Tutuk Utomo Nuradhy, doctorSHARE (Health winner); Angela Homs, Ignite Power (Energy winner); Philippe de Roux, Eau et Vie (Water winner); and Caroline Sloodweg, Kelp Blue (Climate Action winner), with EY Global Senior Advisor, Steve Varley, moderating.

This engaging session allowed these sustainability champions to share their groundbreaking achievements and insights, showcasing how their innovative projects are driving significant environmental and social progress. The episode underscored the importance of visionary approaches in tackling global sustainability challenges.



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SUMMARY

In the 31st episode of Voices of Sustainability, hosted live from the Prize Pavilion at COP28 UAE, moderator Steve Varley, EY Global Senior Advisor, steered an invigorating panel discussion with this cycle's Zayed Sustainability Prize winners. These pioneers in Health, Energy, Water and Climate Action categories shared their transformative journeys and future visions, painting a vivid picture of sustainability in action.

Angela Homsí, Founder of Ignite Power, opened the dialogue. Winning the Energy category, Homsí recounted the euphoria and validation her team experienced upon receiving recognition in the UAE. Ignite Power's eight-year journey has been a labour of love, culminating in a life-enabling infrastructure across Africa. They've replaced hazardous power sources with solar systems, revolutionising energy access. The recent Prize money, Homsí revealed, is a gateway to new partnerships and initiatives, notably in powering schools with solar and internet - a game changer for millions in rural Africa.



My advice to the youth is to be bold and view industry as a blank canvas. Don't be tied to outdated legacy systems; instead, create your own future.

Angela Homsí
Founder & President
Ignite Power
Energy winner



Justice is an urgent need. Focus on your community's immediate challenges, using local resources. Persevere in the face of adversity; collective efforts lead to action.

Philippe de Roux
CEO and Co-founder
Eau et Vie
Water winner

Philippe de Roux, CEO of Eau et Vie, shared his organisation's success in the Water category. Roux's narrative was filled with pride, reflecting on the global impact of Eau et Vie's work providing safe drinking water to marginalised communities. The win not only celebrated 15 years of overcoming complex challenges in underprivileged areas but also marked a significant opportunity to expand their reach, with plans to extend their services to new countries like Kenya.



Caroline Slootweg, Co-founder of Kelp Blue, winner in the Climate Action category, emphasised the overlooked significance of oceans in the sustainability dialogue. Kelp Blue, through the cultivation of giant kelp, fosters marine biodiversity. Slootweg’s passion for the ocean was evident as she spoke about their first product, a bio stimulant that benefits both agriculture and marine ecosystems. With the Prize money, Kelp Blue plans to delve deeper into seaweed research and its potential applications in various industries, bridging the gap between blue and green sustainability efforts.

The Health category winner, Tutuk Utomo Nuradhy, Managing Director of doctorSHARE, brought a compelling narrative from Indonesia. Representing a local nonprofit, doctorSHARE focuses on providing healthcare in the country’s remote islands. Winning the Prize was more than an honour; it was a catalyst for increased networking, collaboration and impact. Nuradhy outlined plans to utilise the Prize to launch a new floating hospital, serving thousands each year in remote Indonesian communities.



Kelp Blue’s offshore cultivation addresses onshore job needs due to declining fish stocks, with 40% of our workforce being women, focusing on the right roles to build social capital.

Caroline Slootweg
Co-founder
Kelp Blue
Climate Action winner



We plan to leverage the impact and use the Prize to build our new floating hospital that will serve 12,000 patient every year in the remote areas.

Tutuk Utomo Nuradhy
Managing Director
doctorSHARE
Health winner



The panellists collectively underscored the importance of innovation and bold thinking in tackling sustainability challenges. Homsy encouraged

entrepreneurs to view industries with a fresh perspective, unburdened by past limitations. De Roux emphasised perseverance and starting from the grassroots, understanding the real needs of beneficiaries. Slootweg highlighted the need for big, fearless ideas and embracing failure as part of the journey. Nuradhy echoed the sentiments on collaboration and stepping outside one’s comfort zone to make a significant impact.

As the discussion concluded, the moderator, Steve Varley, reflected on the panellists’ inspiring stories and the immense potential their projects hold. Their collective wisdom and experiences serve as a beacon for aspiring entrepreneurs in the realm of sustainability, showcasing how vision can indeed be transformed into impactful reality.

This episode was not just a celebration of achievements but a testament to the power of sustainability-driven innovation. The stories shared by Homsy, de Roux, Slootweg, and Nuradhy illustrated how passion, perseverance and a willingness to challenge the status quo can lead to substantial global change. As Varley concluded the session, he emphasised the panellists’ role as trailblazers, paving the way for a more sustainable future and inspiring the next generation of changemakers.

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PARTICIPANTS



Tutuk Utomo Nuradhy

Managing Director
doctorSHARE
Health winner

Tutuk has dedicated 17 years to the humanitarian sector, with significant roles in World Vision Indonesia, including Project Coordinator and National Team Leader for Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation. After World Vision, Tutuk served as Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at FKS Group and managed the FKS Foundation. Joining doctorSHARE in 2018 as Vice Managing Director, Tutuk oversaw daily operations before being promoted to Managing Director in 2023. In this role, Tutuk focuses on representing the organisation, strategising, and managing resources. Tutuk graduated from the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University, and holds a master's in management from PPM School of Management, Jakarta.



Angela Homsy

Founder & President
Ignite Power
Energy winner

Angela is dedicated to solving global challenges. Through Ignite, she pioneers innovative infratech solutions, ensuring universal access to clean power and internet in emerging markets, reaching 2.5 million people across ten countries. Angela chairs the Africa Innovation Fund and serves on the investment committee of Microvest Capital. As investor at Generation IM and Goldman Sachs, she has deep experience in sustainable tech and emerging markets' investing. Angela's nonprofit work includes leadership roles with Seeds of Peace, YPO and track II initiatives. She is also an avid lecturer and news contributor. A mathematician and economics scholar, she's also a Singularity University Executive Graduate.



Philippe de Roux

CEO and Co-founder
Eau et Vie
Water winner

Philippe spent 3 years in an underprivileged area in Manila where he worked with a local microfinance organisation. He experienced the challenging living conditions resulting from poor access to clean water and was particularly struck by the high cost of water, the long waiting lines, and the pirating issues that made water access a daily challenge for households located in urban areas. Back in France, he chose to work for a plumbing company specialised in rehabilitation. The combination of his microfinance experience, his time in the Philippines, and his work in plumbing led Philippe to establish Eau et Vie in 2008.



Caroline Slootweg

Co-founder
Kelp Blue
Climate Action winner

A start up, change management and digital transformation specialist, Caroline has worked at Unilever, WPP, in mar-tech and agri-tech. Her purity of purpose expresses itself as clarity, simplicity and speed.

Caroline sailed half-way around the world and across the Pacific Ocean in the Clipper Round the World yacht race and is also a keen forager and traveller.

The panel was moderated by:



Steve Varley

EY Global Senior Advisor

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OUTCOMES



Renewable Energy Transformation: Ignite Power's work in Africa demonstrates the transformative impact of renewable energy solutions in underserved regions, advocating for greater investment in sustainable energy.



Water Access: Eau et Vie's initiative in providing safe drinking water in underprivileged areas highlights the critical need for addressing basic necessities in marginalised urban communities.



Ocean Biodiversity: Kelp Blue's seaweed cultivation underscores the importance of ocean conservation in climate action, emphasising the need to protect marine ecosystems.



Remote Healthcare Delivery: doctorSHARE's efforts in Indonesia reveal the importance of mobile healthcare solutions in remote areas, showcasing innovative approaches to healthcare accessibility.



Importance of Collaboration: The panellists' focus on collaboration and networking highlights the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships in scaling sustainability initiatives effectively.



Bold Innovation: The winners' advice to entrepreneurs stresses the need for bold, innovative thinking in overcoming traditional barriers and driving significant change in sustainability.

Watch the full episode on the Zayed Sustainability Prize's YouTube channel

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