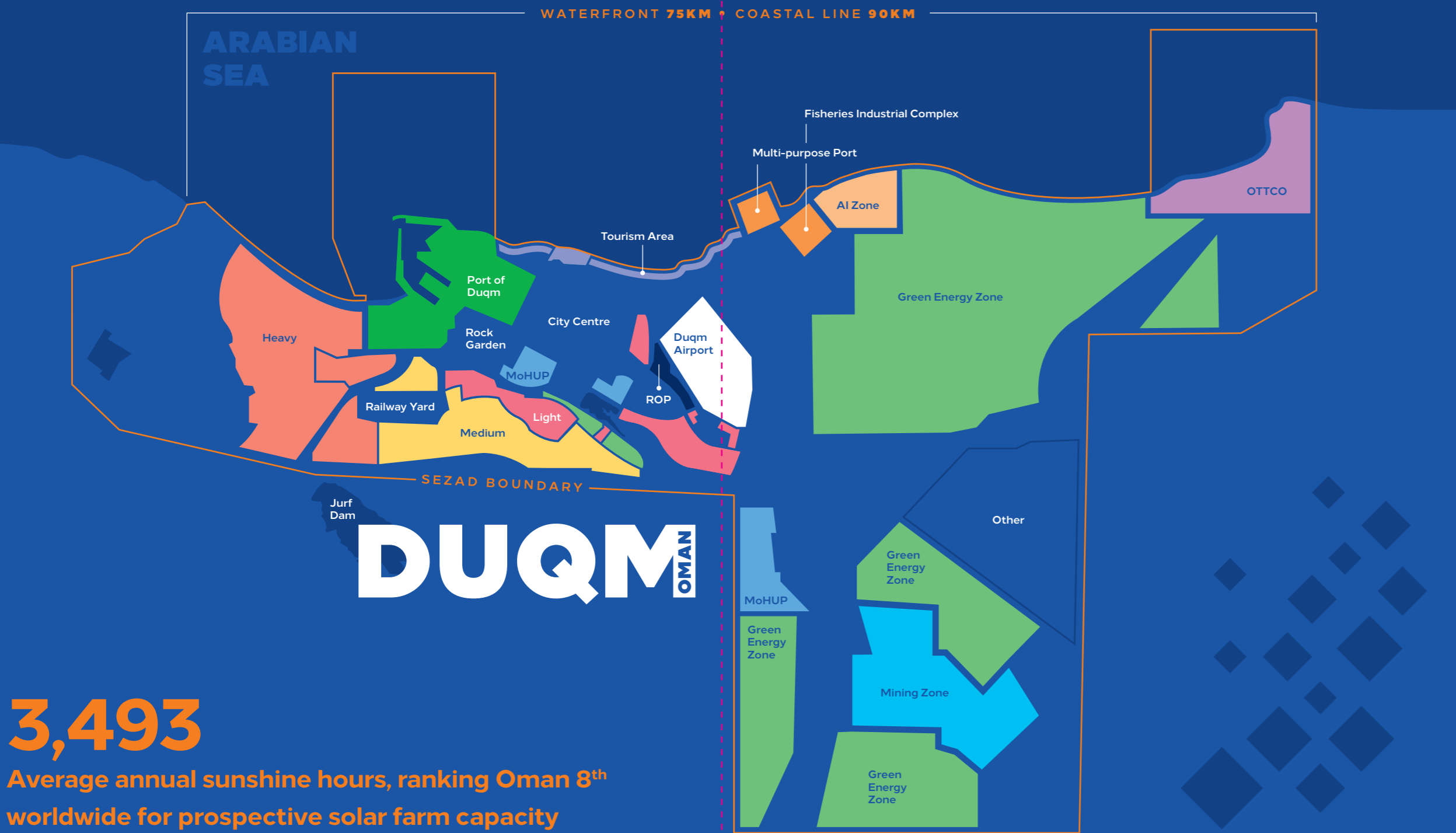
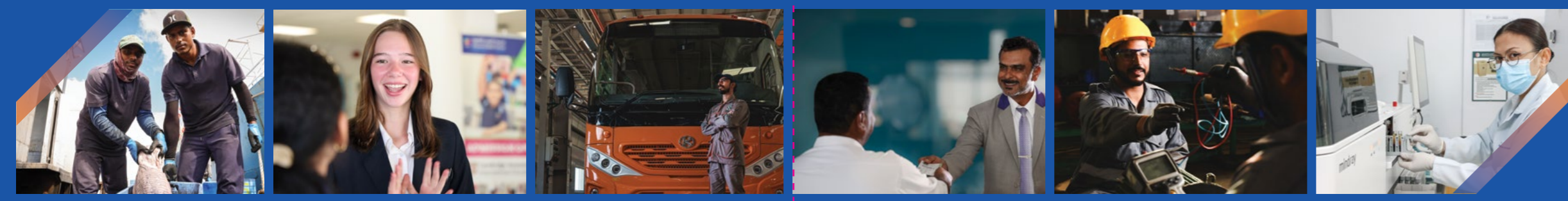


# Opportunity Zones

**Disclaimer**  
This map is for illustrative purposes only and is not an official representation of SEZAD.  
For official maps or further details please contact SEZAD directly.



Organized by the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, Duqm Now is more than just a quarterly event – it is a unique platform for knowledge exchange, partnership building and sustainable business development. The upcoming four sessions will address key opportunities within the green energy sector, the evolving relationship between education and industry, adoption of circular economy practices and the transition to sustainable petrochemical production.



**242km<sup>2</sup>**  
Allocated to production of green energy

All Duqm Now Sessions are held at Crowne Plaza Duqm

Ready to shape the future of business?  
Join the movers and shakers at Duqm Now.  
Reserve your seat at [duqm.now@duqm.gov.om](mailto:duqm.now@duqm.gov.om)

**Contact**  
SEZAD  
Marketing Department  
PO Box 77  
Muscat, 100  
Sultanate of Oman  
[duqm.now@duqm.gov.om](mailto:duqm.now@duqm.gov.om)  
Tel: (+968) 25 22 24 57



# Opinion

## What is SEZAD and why is it important?

SEZAD covers 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is among the largest special economic zones in MENA. It hosts over 260 businesses from 34 countries, all playing a part in Oman's Vision 2040 and leading change in unlocking new potential in renewables, logistics, fisheries, petrochemicals, manufacturing and more. And let us not forget we are at the heart of the GCC market with its 50+ million consumers and we neighbour the economic growth centres of Africa and Asia which are expected to account for over 50% of global spending by 2032. Our location and connectivity are exceptional.

There is genuine momentum in Duqm. It is a place with real opportunity right now where big ideas are already becoming reality.

**Oman is one of the places in the world that I've called the future renewable superpowers**

Michael Liebreich  
Former CEO BloombergNEF



Eng. Ahmed Akaak  
CEO  
SEZAD

**Oman set to link 2,670 MW of solar and wind power to the electricity grid by 2027**

# Priorities

- Raise Awareness**  
Increase awareness of Duqm as an attractive investment destination – providing information on its infrastructure, amenities, incentives, tenants and benefits.
- Promote Investment**  
Attract potential investors from different sectors and from various parts of the world, specifically those who could benefit from Duqm's unique offer.
- Network Building**  
Provide a platform for stakeholders, existing tenants - large and small - potential investors and government representatives to network and build partnerships.
- Facilitate Dialogue**  
Encourage open discussion about the opportunities available in Duqm, facilitating dialogue between businesses, investors, tenants, entrepreneurs and policy makers.
- Showcase Success Stories**  
Share success stories of businesses operating in Duqm - showcase the opportunities and growth potential for other prospective tenants.
- Knowledge Exchange**  
Create a knowledge-sharing platform where best practices, regulatory updates and industry trends can be discussed.
- Strengthen Ties**  
Foster greater global cooperation by attracting foreign investors and businesses.
- Sustainability Focus**  
Tackle sustainability issues related to Duqm's operations and highlight the initiatives taken by SEZAD towards eco-friendly practices.

# Green hydrogen annual production set to reach 1 million tonnes by 2030

## Tell us about Duqm and renewable energy.

The home of renewable energy in Oman, Duqm's potential in this sector is remarkable. There is ample land, abundant sunshine and strong winds. By 2030 we will be the largest exporter of green hydrogen in the Middle East and 6<sup>th</sup> worldwide.

SEZAD will help Oman meet its 2050 Net Zero target as well support countries worldwide in realizing their carbon neutrality. Oman has serious ambitions in renewable energy and Duqm is central to making those a reality.

## What makes SEZAD stand out for foreign investors?

Apart from our outstanding location, market access and infrastructure, SEZAD offers a welcoming environment for investors - 100% foreign ownership, zero personal income tax, free capital repatriation and competitive utility rates. For businesses setting up here, our One-Stop-Shop team is on hand to make the process smooth. Duqm also provides an outstanding quality of life, ideal for both work and family.

## How about manufacturing?

SEZAD is driving the shift towards eco-friendly steelmaking, attracting major investors like Japan's Mitsui and Kobe Steel, and India's Vulcan Steel, whose green steel plant will be the world's largest.



This creates extensive downstream opportunities in automotive, white goods and more. Additionally, Oman's growing market for renewable energy components opens remarkable prospects for equipment manufacturing, assembly and maintenance. Beyond renewables, SEZAD offers high-potential opportunities in fisheries, food processing, low-carbon steel, tourism, real estate and green automobiles.

# Meet the Change Leaders

Duqm Now 2025 Season



**PLATINUM PARTNER**

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# Up & Down the Green Stream



European SMEs involved in renewable energy projects have increased revenues by an average of 15% annually over the last five years while the global green technology and sustainability market is expected to reach US\$139 billion by 2030. This first Duqm Now session will explore how Omani SMEs can capitalize on similar opportunities within SEZAD's green energy zone.

Globally, small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are playing a major role in the Green Energy sector and enjoying substantial growth. In Europe, for example, SMEs involved in renewable energy projects have increased revenues by an average of 15% annually over the last five years while the global green tech and sustainability market is expected to reach US\$139 billion by 2030.

Inspired by this potential, this Duqm Now session will explore the current and emerging renewable energy related opportunities for ambitious Omani SMEs and entrepreneurs in and around the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. With a special focus on major projects like SEZAD's Integrated Energy Valley, we will cover the role SMEs can play in supply chain management, manufacturing, specialized services and support infrastructure.

## US\$139bn

Expected revenue of global green tech and sustainability market by 2030

### Key Discussion Points

- 1 The role SMEs can play within major projects like SEZAD's integrated Energy Valley from supply chain contributions to providing specialized services
- 2 Opportunities created by new technologies and innovative practices in renewable energy
- 3 Trends in the global renewable energy market and potential revenue potential for SMEs engaged in renewable energy projects
- 4 Duqm's SME support infrastructure and scaling operations within the renewable energy sector
- 5 The broader implications of a thriving renewable energy sector on sustainability and community development in Duqm and Oman

# Classroom to Shop Floor Education-Industry Links in Manufacturing



As Oman grows its manufacturing sector, contributing 9.8% to GDP in 2023, this Duqm Now will delve into the fabric of both successful University-Industry partnerships and apprenticeships, looking at how they can bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

In accordance with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and through the roadmap provided by the newly announced Industrial Strategy 2040, government is looking to increase the 9.8% contribution manufacturing made to Oman's non-oil GDP in 2023. The growth of the sector will create thousands of quality, long-term jobs for Oman's youth and central to equipping them with the skills they need to embark on and succeed in these careers will be collaborative University-Industry (U-I) programs. In fact, research suggests companies engaged in U-I arrangements report a 11% higher rate of productivity with

the flow of new ideas and technologies from academia to the production floor, significantly boosting competitiveness. For Duqm's tenant community these links have the potential to provide crucial support, enhancing technical capabilities and market responsiveness through access to tailored training programs and research.

This Duqm Now will delve into the fabric of both successful U-I partnerships and apprenticeships, looking at how they can bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

## 249,720

Employed in Oman's manufacturing sector

### Key Discussion Points

- 1 Collaboration models between universities and industry, apprenticeships and research
- 2 Successful partnerships between manufacturers and universities - case studies, outcomes, best practices and lessons learnt
- 3 Gaps in the current skill sets of graduates and how industry input can tailor educational programs to better meet Duqm's workforce demands
- 4 The integration of advanced manufacturing technologies into academic curricula and preparing students for the modern manufacturing environment
- 5 Funding opportunities and resources available for educational institutions and manufacturing firms to establish and maintain productive partnerships

# Circular Economy Rethinking Resource Use



Moving away from the unsustainable 'take-make-waste' model towards a sustainable, regenerative system that mirrors nature's cycles offers the SEZAD tenant community potential cost savings and new revenue streams. This third session will cover how Duqm-based businesses can turn waste into profit drivers, aligning with global best practices.

The Circular Economy is all about moving away from the traditional, linear "take-make-waste" model and instead keep products and materials in use. For many companies, this shift in thinking may initially seem daunting - after all, some operate on slim margins, limited resources and complex supply chains. By simply reevaluating byproducts and waste streams as potential resources, firms can simultaneously cut costs, generate new revenue and gain a competitive advantage - essentially turning waste from a cost centre into a

profit driver. By embracing the Circular Economy, SEZAD businesses can reap substantial benefits - not just for themselves but also for the planet and its inhabitants.

This third Duqm Now will discuss how embracing circularity in manufacturing is not just a sustainability imperative for SEZAD's community but a high-potential business opportunity. It will look too at what is involved in embarking on this shift, its challenges, support available and rewards.

## US\$4.5tr

The Circular Economy's potential contribution to global economic output by 2030

### Key Discussion Points

- 1 Advanced waste management technologies and practices
- 2 Strategies for maximizing resource efficiency in manufacturing processes
- 3 Methods for extending the lifecycle of products and their potential impact on Duqm's industrial sector
- 4 Opportunities for collaboration between business, government and other stakeholders to promote and support sustainable manufacturing practices in Duqm's industrial sector
- 5 Challenges for Duqm-based businesses in transitioning to a Circular Economy model

# A Greener Petrochemical Pipeline



With global demand for petrochemicals expected to double by 2050, the final session of the 2025 Duqm Now season will focus on the transition to low-carbon production methods, highlighting the role of SEZAD-based petrochemical businesses in meeting Oman's 2050 Net Zero target.

Despite environmental challenges - including greenhouse gas emissions and plastic waste - and pressure from regulators, customers and investors to decarbonize, the global demand for petrochemicals is projected to double by 2050. This anticipated growth, driven by increased population, urbanization and rising living standards, underscores the urgent need for innovative and sustainable practices in the petrochemical industry.

Taking a fresh look at the petrochemical industry, this expert Duqm Now panel will explore the transition to low carbon

petrochemicals including innovations such as process optimization, waste heat recovery, the creation of biodegradable plastics and the shift towards a Circular Economy for these products.

The conversation will include discussion on the economic benefits and potential for job creation of these approaches. We will also investigate how the petrochemicals industry is evolving in Duqm and what the next steps will be as Oman works towards its 2050 Net Zero Target.

## 40%

Global PET recycling rates by 2040

### Key Discussion Points

- 1 The transition to bio-based and renewable feedstocks and decreasing reliance on traditional fossil fuels in petrochemical production
- 2 New technologies and methods for enhancing efficiency in petrochemical processes
- 3 Strategies to create a more sustainable lifecycle for plastics
- 4 Economic benefits and job creation potential associated with implementing sustainable practices within the petrochemical sector
- 5 Major industry environmental challenges and strategies to mitigate these impacts as the global demand for petrochemicals continues to rise