

Signing usufruct agreement for an integrated tourist complex



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of more than
OMR 610
million**

**Unstoppable
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Attracting Institutional Investors

The issue of attracting institutional investors is still one of the most important issues on which the Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm (SEZAD) focuses. The objectives of Duqm can only be achieved by large capitals and local and international companies that put their trust in Duqm.

It is appropriate to spot light on a number of prominent stations in Duqm during the past year. The most important of which is laying the foundation stone for two distinct projects. The first project is the Sino-Oman Industrial City, which will invest about 10.7 billion dollars through a variety of projects. The second project is the bus manufacturing project to be held through Oman and Qatar investments. The last year witnessed signing 87 usufruct and development agreements with an investment of more than RO 610.2 million. The most important of which is the little India Company project to establish an integrated tourism complex with RO 288 million and the Al Wusta Cement Company project at RO 265 million.

SEZAD granted many SMEs the right to use the lands for the construction of various projects benefiting from the major projects that SEZAD is working to attract. In addition, SMEs benefit from the population growth witnessed by the Duqm.

Duqm also witnessed the inauguration of Renaissance Village at Duqm which is a residential complex that accommodate about 17 million people. It is a unique project aims at providing healthy and comfortable for the workers in the Duqm.

SEZAD also promoted the area locally and internationally. It hosted during the last years a number of commercial and governmental delegations from the Arab, European and Asian countries. These delegations expressed their optimism towards the Duqm which reflects our confidence in the achievements of the SEZAD over the past few years. Duqm Development Company Saoc signing MOU with Adani Ports reflects the interest given to Duqm in many world markets.

At the time in which SEZAD exerts efforts in attracting investments, it is also working to complete the implementation of the big governmental projects such as Port of Duqm and fishing harbor, fish industry area and strengthening the road, electricity, water and communications networks and other projects that prepare the area for the next stage and lead to achieving the main objectives of its establishment.

If Duqm has achieved presence locally and globally during the past and previous years, we start now this year with many ambitions aiming at achieving greater achievements in order to make the region one of the most important global investment areas. Allah is the Arbiter of Success.



Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



If Duqm has achieved presence locally and globally in the past and previous years, we start now this year with many ambitions aiming at achieving greater achievements.

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Zones

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الدقم
الاقتصادية
Duqm

هيئة المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة
Special Economic Zone Authority
Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان

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SEZD
(Special Economic Zone at Duqm) in the Sultanate of Oman offers a variety of investment opportunities in different fields such as Industrial sector, logistics, trade, tourism and fisheries with many incentives that include:

- Up to 30-Year tax exemption, renewable.
- 50-Year usufruct agreements, renewable.
- A comprehensive array of services to investors through the One-Stop Shop.

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Invest in Duqm

SEZD (Special Economic Zone of Duqm) is distinguished by:

- Its strategic location on the Arabian Sea, near international shipping lines.
 - Moderate climate year-round
 - (2000 km²) of available lands for investment.
 - Multi-purpose port.
 - A dry dock yard for ship repair and maintenance.
 - A refinery and petrochemical industries area.
- A regional airport.

Sultanate signs two MoUs to fund infrastructure development and Fishery Port in Duqm



Muscat -

On 4 January 2018, the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Saudi Fund for Development under the GCC Development Program to finance the development of infrastructure in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) and the construction of the Fishery Port in Duqm.

The first MoU provides for the financing the completion of the second part of the main road project No. 32, which runs from central to south of Duqm for a length of 13 km at OMR 20 million.

The second MoU relates to the provision of OMR 61 million to finance the project of the Fishery Port in Duqm.


The two MoUs were signed by H.E. Darwish bin Ismail bin Ali Al-Balushi, Minister Responsible for Finance, and H.E. Yousef bin Ibrahim Al-Bassam, Vice Chair and Managing Director of the Fund.

H.E. Darwish bin Ismail bin Ali Al-Balushi, Minister Responsible for Financial Affairs, pointed

out that the grant comes within the framework of the development of economic cooperation between the two countries and as part of the GCC joint programs of development. He added that it would contribute to the development of the infrastructure in SEZD and increase the production capacity of the Fishery Port there.

On his part, Eng. Yousef bin Ibrahim Al-Bassam, Vice Chair and Managing Director of Saudi Development Fund, expressed his happiness with the signing of these MoUs with the Sultanate. He indicated that the Fund shall follow up their implementation, adding that the Fund approved USD 150 million within its financing programs for SME projects in the Sultanate. Oman Development Bank shall follow up the implementation of this program.

The signing ceremony was attended by H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), Nasser bin Khamis Al-Jashmi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mishal Al-Shimari, Acting Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate and a number of officials in the Ministry of Finance.


**Saudi Fund
for Development
provides OMR
81 million to
finance both
projects**



Map showing the location of the Fishery port & Fishery Industries Area


**Completion
of the 13-km
main road
project in
Duqm**

ROP celebrates inauguration of Special Task Police Unit in Duqm



**Includes
a security
center with a
control room
to provide
continuous
security
coverage**

Duqm - :

On 5 November 2017, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) celebrated the inauguration of the Special Tasks Police Unit in the Wilayat of Duqm, Al-Wusta Governorate and the graduation of new police people.

H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, sponsored the ceremony in the presence of H.E. Hassan bin Mohsen Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, and a bouquet of Highnesses, Excellencies, Ministers, Counselors, Honorables, officers of ROP, Sultan's Armed Forces

and other security services and citizens.

The ceremony began with the arrival of the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs to the parade field. The queue of graduates offered the military salute graduates ceremony before H.E. the Inspector General inspected the first row of the queue. Then the graduates made a military parade passing through the main platform. Then H.E. handed over the awards of excellence to distinctive graduates.

The graduates then chanted the ROP anthem, performed the loyalty oath and saluted His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin



Unveiling of
memorial plaque



Said, the Supreme Commander, thrice.

Various facilities

The building of the Special Task Police Unit consists of a security center provided with a control room for continuous security coverage with, a hall equipped with modern technology, meeting rooms and modern administrative offices.

At the training level, the Unit includes a field for parades and military exercises consisting of a main platform and seating areas.

In order to maintain the proper physical structure and fitness of officers, the ROP has been keen to establish integrated

sports facilities in the Unit. These include a football ground with internationally recognized standards, a number of sports venues and a multi-purpose sports hall for training on self-defense and other skills as well as an international swimming pool to train incumbent officers on swimming skills and arts.

In the field of health and social care, there is a clinic to provide primary medical services, a mosque and a number of residential buildings for officers equipped with required services. The Unit also includes classrooms equipped with appropriate educational means to receive knowledge and legal sciences in specialized fields.

Establishment of a field for parades, military training and educational and sports facilities



Sponsor of celebration sees Unit facilities



Excellence awards granted to distinctive graduates

Yahya Al-Jabri in an interview with «Jund Oman» Magazine:

Duqm is one of the main components of Oman's plan for development and economic diversification



Achieving social development is one of the Duqm's main objectives

Infrastructure projects have helped to stimulate economic activity in Duqm

Muscat - :

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD), confirmed that the region is considered one of the main components of the Sultanate's plan for economic development and diversification. Its establishment aims to achieve many economic and developmental objectives. He added that: «the importance of the zone is not limited to its contribution to GDP and provision of employment opportunities for citizens, but also its role extends to achieve social development in the Al Wusta Governorate. He also confirmed that this goal is one of the objectives that the Sultanate focuses on in its approach which is based on the distribution of the fruits of development throughout Oman».

In an exclusive interview with Jund Oman magazine which was published in its issue of November 2017, he praised the geographical position of the Sultanate and its security and stability, the incentives it provides to the investors, the advantages the Omani community enjoyed by and the Sultanate's openness to the culture of the world while maintaining the

feature of Oman civilization and authenticity». «These are the key factors for attracting and growing investments» he said.

Qualitative Shift in Services

«The region has achieved a qualitative shift in the services it provides to its residents, visitors and investors. Duqm Airport, which was operated early in 2014, has facilitated the smooth movement of citizens and residents between Muscat and Duqm through regular daily flights. The parts of the region have been linked through a modern network of double roads, which included luxury hotels that promote tourism and provide good accommodation for investors and visitors. The region has witnessed a growth in commercial and urban movement and the establishment of projects. The projects that were established during the previous years contributed to stimulating the economic activity in a significant way. H.E said in an interview conducted by Hanadi Al-Khanjari

Main Components of the Region

He explained that the port of Duqm, the dry



Yahya Al-Jabri in an interview with «Jund Oman» magazine editor and Editor-in-Chief of the Duqm economic magazine

dock for the repair and maintenance of ships, the airport, the Chinese industrial city, the Sebacic acid production, the fishing port, the fish industries area, the Renaissance Village, the hotels that were established in the region during the past period, the power and desalination plants, the projects of Oman Oil Company such as a Duqm Refinery and Ras Markaz oil storage terminal and delivery of gas to the region are the major components of the region at the present time. There are also many usufruct agreements signed by the Authority with the local and foreign private sector for the establishment of quality projects. All these components will contribute to economic development and diversification.

Investment Incentives

Regarding the incentives of investment in the SEZAD, H.E said that the Authority provides an integrated package of benefits of incentives and facilities for investors, including exemption from income tax for thirty years as of the date of commencement of activity renewable and exemption from the customs tax of the goods imported from outside the Sultanate to the SEZAD and the goods exported from the region to outside Oman, and the right to use the lands of the State located in the region for a period of up to fifty calendar years renewable for similar periods according to the rules determined by the Authority. The capital of the project may be owned in full by for non-Omanis as an exception to the Commercial Companies Law and the Foreign Capital Investment Law.

In this regard, H.E reviewed several other incentives provided by the Authority to investors, pointing out that the single terminal that provides all necessary services for projects including registration services in the Commercial Register and issuance of all licenses, permits, approvals and visas.

Direct and Indirect Job Opportunities

His Excellency stressed that the Authority

focuses on benefiting Omani youth from the various projects being implemented in the region. With regard to direct employment opportunities, the current projects such as Duqm Port, Dry Dock, SEZAD, hotels in the region and banks opened after the establishment of the zone and industrial, commercial and residential projects that were established over the past period and contracting companies have created many opportunities for Omani youth.

He added that the economic growth witnessed by the region has contributed to the provision of many indirect employment opportunities to the community as a result of the high demand to goods and services and the growth of commercial movement. This growth has encouraged Omani youth to establish a number of projects in the region. He stressed that the Authority encourages small and medium enterprises to work in the region. Therefore, fees for the services offered by the Authority to these enterprises were reduced by 50% and a fixed percentage of the total value of the tenders offered by the Authority to these institutions was imposed.

Training and Qualification

H.E said in his speech applauds the efforts exerted by the Authority and the companies operating in the region in qualifying the Omani youth and training them to work in the projects witnessed by the region. He added that the Authority and the companies operating in the region provided over the course of the past years a number of the scholarships to the citizens of Wilayat Ad Duqm to obtain bachelor's degree in addition to providing high-level training for Omani youth in different areas of work in the region. He pointed out that the Authority in collaboration with Oman Wanfang LLC is executing a training program in China to the people of Duqm and other Al Wusta Governorate provinces in order to qualify the youth to work in projects to be held in the Oman-China Industrial Zone at Duqm.

The Authority offers a full package of benefits, incentives and facilities to investors

We are keen to help Omani youth benefiting from the various projects being implemented in the Duqm

We are keen to help Omani youth benefiting from the various projects being implemented in the Duqm



Demetris Syllouris appreciates Sultanate's efforts in achieving economic and social development

Encouraging businesspeople in the Sultanate and Cyprus to form economic partnerships that contribute to the promotion of trade exchange

Speaker of the House of Representatives of Cyprus briefed on investment opportunities in Duqm

Muscat - :

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), received on (14 November 2017) H.E. Dimitris Silores, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, who is currently visiting the Sultanate.

The meeting reviewed the economic relations between the Sultanate and the Republic of Cyprus, and their efforts to encourage businesspeople to form economic partnerships that contribute to enhancing trade exchange.

The meeting also touched on the promotion campaign organized by the SEZAD in the Republic of Cyprus last May, which helped inform the Cypriot business community about the in-

vestment climate in the Sultanate in general, the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) in particular, and the economic projects in the Sultanate.

H.E. Al-Jabri affirmed the keenness of the Sultanate to attract various investments. He pointed out that SEZD offers many incentives and facilities for investors, such as tax exemptions, land usufruct for periods of up to 50 years, and provision of many services to investors through the one-stop shop to mention only a few.

For his part, the Cypriot Speaker expressed his appreciation for the Sultanate's efforts to promote development in various fields expressing the hope that the mutual visits between the two sides will enhance bilateral relations between the two friendly countries



Speaker of the House of Representatives of Cyprus briefed on SEZD master plan



*The General Manager of the Kempinski Hotel Muscat speaks to **الدقم** :*

Al Duqm is on its way to evolving into one of the region's main trading hub

◆ Interview: Mohammed
◆ Bin Ahmed Al Shezawi:

Carsten Wiegandt, General Manager of Kempinski Hotel Muscat, said, "Al Duqm is evolving into one of the region's main trading hub, linking East and West and taking advantage of its strategic location on the World Trade Route."

In an exclusive interview with Al Duqm Economic magazine, Wiegandt mentioned that Al Duqm will witness an improved growth in the coming years, providing investors and residents with a unique model for modern cities, characterized by diversity. He said that the increasing number of investors in the region and the diversity of their nationalities are driving Al Duqm to enhance its economic reputation locally and globally, encouraging more investors from around the world to the area.





The increasing number of investors enhances the economic reputation of Al Duqm, enabling the area to present a unique model of modern cities

We focus on introducing the Sultanate and enhancing the performance of the exhibitions and conferences sector

The increasing number of hotels contributes to the development of the hospitality sector, offering a variety of options for tourists

He added, "Through strategic development, Al Duqm can become a region of great global importance that is not limited to one economic activity. Al Duqm has various elements that encourage international companies in the hotel and tourism sector to invest in them."

The riches of the tourism sector in the Sultanate

The General Manager of the Kempinski Hotel Muscat expects the coming years to witness good growth in the tourism sector, pointing out that the Sultanate's rich tourism and attractions encourage visitors from all over the world to visit the country. The expansive beaches, green valleys, caves, clean environment, scenic mountain ranges, traditional markets, and architecture of many historical monuments, are major attractions for tourists from around the world.

He also mentioned, "The architecture of Al Alam Palace is striking and definitely an attraction for tourists. The National Museum in Muscat is one of the places that tourists should visit in order to understand Omani history and the ancient civilization of the Sultanate. The Royal Opera House is a modern landmark that offers high cultural and artistic value by hosting numerous world-renowned art groups."

Several programs to support the tourism sector

Wiegandt said that the Kempinski Hotel

Muscat aims to promote the Sultanate and support the tourism sector through several initiatives to be implemented in the coming period. The hotel design reflects this interest. The lobby design is inspired by the Al Alam Palace and there is a strong presence of the façade of areas in old Muscat – such as Muttrah – in the way the hotel's buildings were created. The expansive, diamond-shaped ballroom is inspired by the Arab Lantern – also known as the 'fanoos' – and is illuminated during the evening to represent the inspired element.

In addition, the loyalty program Kempinski Discovery, which is known to be one of world's most prestigious loyalty programs, will be designed to provide a personalized experience to visitors, including visits to the country's most famous local, touristic and cultural attractions.

Kempinski Hotel Muscat, which is expected to open in the first quarter of 2018, is the first Kempinski brand in the Sultanate and a new addition to the tourism sector which will contribute to the enhancement and enrichment of the conference and exhibition industry.

Wiegandt said that the hotel is distinguished by its unique location within the Al Mouj project, which is one of the integrated tourism projects in the Sultanate and in close proximity to Muscat International Airport, Oman Convention and Exhibition Center, in addition to numerous touristic and economic sites allowing Kempinski



Vigant and the editor-in-chief in an introductory portrait in front of the hotel building before conducting the press interview

Hotel Muscat to provide added value to its guests.

Adding to the 'Muscat Ballroom' – one of the largest in the country at 1100 sq/m and pillarless – with 11 state-of-the-art conference rooms, the Kempinski Hotel Muscat will feature 10 food and beverage outlets. A retail and dining stretch of road, 'Boulevard' complements 'The Walk' in Al Mouj and will be home to a variety of restaurants, bars, shops and boutiques. From the world-renowned Northern Indian cuisine of Bukhara, to the only quintessential beach club in Al Mouj at Zale, and the signature restaurant of the hotel, The Kitchen, a dynamic open-style restaurant with live cooking, and everything in between, our discerning guests can choose their cuisine according to their tastes. The hotel plan also includes contracting with destination management companies to provide distinctive tourist programs for guests.

He explained that the Kempinski Hotel Muscat will use the experience it has garnered over the past 120 years to revitalize the tourism sector in the Sultanate while adhering to the principles of luxury hospitality standards, stressing that the hotel will provide high quality training for Omani youth to work in this vital sector.

Competition in the hotel sector

Wiegandt said that the expected competition in the hotel sector – following the significant increase in the number of hotels over the past two years – will enrich the development of the sector and offer several options for tourists to choose from, adding that Oman's tourism strategy currently implemented by the Sultanate will contribute to increased demand for hotel rooms. This increase will add to the booming industry of exhibitions and conferences.

There is high demand of tourism for business, conferences, in addition to leisure, and the Sultanate can meet the expectations of tourists looking for a luxury tourist trip due to the abundant tourist attractions. The activities carried out by the Ministry of Tourism to place the Sultanate on the world tourism map inspires pride in the country.

He explained that each hotel can employ the Sultanate's advantages in enhancing its position and its ability to attract tourists to achieve the aspired growth. In addition, each hotel can be an ambassador to the Sultanate, stressing that competition between hotels is healthy. It pays to compete for quality and provide a full-range of services to its guests. "We offer a local experience that encourages our customers to visit the Sultanate."

Competition between hotels is healthy; encouraging quality and a full range of services to guests

Our aim is to make Kempinski Hotel Muscat the ideal hotel for any visiting guest

The concept of luxury in the hotel sector has changed... Hotels must keep up with the ever-changing and evolving expectations of guests



Misbah Qutb
An Egyptian writer specialized in
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Economic Zones in “Priority” Age

The ideas of establishing free zones, of all types, or economic zones (recently) gained tremendous momentum in the recent decades. It is particularly noteworthy to the development made in the wave of deregulation and obstacles that face the cross-border flows of trade, investment and capital, within what we call the first wave of modern globalization after 1980.

Of course, this wave did not include, and probably will not soon include, the freedom of movement of individuals, the freedom which existed until the beginning of the World War II. It became very restricted at the time in which the modern globalization increased ironically! Margaret Thatcher's term as prime minister in Britain and Ronald Reagan as president of America can be considered the peak period of the global wave of the “liberalization” of trade and economy locally and internationally. The great development of information and communication technology has strengthened the power of this trend, so that the expression that the world looks like “one village” has become common on everyone's mouth, irrespective of the nature of each party's understanding or intention - if we want precision - regarding this slogan.

Throughout this time, there have been leftist or liberal critics of this modern globalization, which mainly focuses on free trade, exchange rates and capital, and their arguments in this regard are well known. But what concerns us now the following question: to what extent the trends that call for “America First”, “Britain First” or “Canada First”, “affects, denounces or views the current free trade an unfair from its point of view. It calls for a return to protectionism, establishing fences, border closures and withdrawal from this framework agreement on a free-trade treaty or To what extent it effects free zones and economic zones in our region and the world ?.

I believe that the extensive commercial exchange, of all forms or legal forms, is no longer an option that can be rejected or accepted. The productive, commercial, consumer and monetary interrelationships among the countries of the world have reached a state of organic complexity that may be impossible to be dismantled and returned to an earlier time. In turn, the awareness of the national state and the awareness of its citizens and institutions due to the nature of reciprocal relations among countries are much higher than the time of the “propaganda” of Thatcher and Reagan; requesting much more caution and care when dealing with any file of this kind, whether it is a new project being studied or a deal is concluded.

Each party now seeks for golden ratio: “the highest price for the seller”, and “the highest quality of the buyer at the lowest price.” Therefore, an important aspect of the current objections to free trade come as a result of this complex

research, and sometimes either party who aware of implementing the actual principle of “win – win. Of course, there will be all the time the greedy who wants to get more than his right. Therefore, the economic zones and the bodies led by them are only required to further review the rules, incentives, penalties and regulations established for industrialization, investment, trade, export and the import of raw materials and components in those areas (periodically), along with renewed diversification of contracts as well as diversification of activities. The advantages fortunately are located in the Duqm Economic Zone and in a satisfactorily manner calling for even admiration.

It is also useful to increase the transparency of the various transactions in all their details, as the Arab said “Honesty has its virtues.”, as well as transparency, especially in those times when the fog dominated the vision on many sides.

Another factor that needs further research is to think about those who withdraw as much as they think about attracting new investors or new investments. The introduction of different benefits and incentives have become short-lived in effect because when the innovative advantage is about or almost to pay off, or that region till being reproduced by others or increased by them.

Careful study before establishing projects and careful attention to the achievement of fair benefits and the continuous consideration of the future and its scenarios aims to minimize the withdrawals from the free and economic zones or calls for a rapid change in the owners of projects.

Stability in the face of changes is one of the most important values in this time of uncertainty. The decline in the rate of increase in international trade will not be eternal, and it does not prevent the existence of opportunities. We must note that the growth of international trade did not turn out to be negative in the time in which the call for “priority”, the protection and the closing of the doors are high.

“We are not going to let the United States to achieve trade gains better than others, I am always going to put America first.” Trump said at the APEC Summit in Vietnam last November. OK. Trump talks that America will not oppress anyone, but will not accept that anyone to oppress it. This is exactly what is required. Our economic zones and our countries must continue in their fair and impartial treatment as usual, and must agree with all those who support this kind of serious justice to defend the principle against those oppressing it.

Finally, if a strong country disagreed with another strong country – i.e America and China, this may be merciful. It will pave the way for more fair justice in trade exchange and the flow of investments and industries across countries so as prosperity to include all. There is nothing good in a world where minority is happy and the majority is unhappy.

Unstoppable Projects



Split surface water
drainage channels

Implementing projects in
infrastructure sectors at a
cost of RO 648.2 million

confirms its quest to capture the investment opportunities available in the region

◆◆◆
Executing 31 construction projects and 14 projects for engineering consultants

◆◆◆
The company is responsible for managing the assets assigned to it by the Economic Zone Authority

Duqm - :

Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm «Tatweer Duqm», the executive arm of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, in terms of executing the infrastructure and attracting investors said that the number of projects under its implementation is 45 projects, including 31 construction projects and 14 engineering consulting projects.

The company said in a report of which a copy obtained by the Duqm economic magazine that the number of projects under implementation is 25 projects, including 15 construction projects and 10 projects for engineering consulting. In addition, there are 6 projects were submitted for tender and 4 projects are in the process of preparation for tender, as well as 10 projects that have been completed during 2016 and 2017.

Engineers in Tatweer Duqm Company discussed the progress of work with a company executing projects

Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm was established in 2013, and it is a subsidiary of Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm which owns 100% of its shares. The company is liable for the management of assets, the implementation of all projects and development projects in the region assigned to it by SEZAD, or one of its sectors, especially strategic infrastructure projects that support investments within the economic zone such as land settlement and implementation of public utility projects such as water, electricity, gas, telecommunications, roads and transportation.

According to the report, the cost of the projects supervised by Tatweer Duqm Company until the end of November 2017 amounted to RO 648.2 million, of which RO 624.3 million is the cost of construction projects, RO 23.3 million is the cost of consulting services and RO



Part of the work in the fourth package of the port of Duqm

577 thousand maintenance costs.

Port of Duqm

Port of Duqm is one of the most important infrastructure projects supervised by Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm. The port is currently carrying out a number of packages including the second package for the operation of the commercial dock and its equipment to accommodate the containers. This package includes the construction of buildings and construction of service roads and workshops for the operation of the dock and cranes. The cost of the project is RO 107.3 million. It is implemented by an alliance of the Turkish company Circa and the Portuguese Company MSF.

The port also witnesses the implementation of the third package for the establishment of commercial terminal of the commercial dock, which includes the construction of roads and commercial gate of commercial dock, inspection and check area, truck registration building, port one-stop terminal building, customs and inspection building and other buildings of the clearing works of the commercial terminal. United Gulf Construction Company LLC constructs the project at a cost of RO 77,1 Million.

The fourth package of the port related to the infrastructure of the government dock is a unique project. This dock is the first of its kind to be built in Omani ports and is allocated for government agencies. The project, which is valued at RO 55.4 million, is implemented by the

Combined Group Contracting Company (CGC).

The port of Duqm is also witnessing the implementation of the seventh package related to the construction of the liquid and bulk dock which prepares the port for the exporting liquid refined products and enhancing its value in the national economy. The project is executed by Boskalis Westminster Ltd (Oman) at a cost of RO 199.1 million.

Fishery Port

Tatweer Duqm Company SAOC also oversees the implementation of the fishing port (marine works and related road works). The project, which cost about RO 60.7 million, was awarded by Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG.

The construction of the port is part of the Sultanate's plan to create the economic zone of Duqm to be a major center for the fishery industries. The port is the largest fishing port in the Sultanate with an area of 600 hectares. It includes a fish processing area with a number of factories and facilities specialized in fish processing and canning.

Building Projects

The projects under the supervision of Tatweer Duqm Company include: Special Economic Zone Authority at Al Duqm Building, the project of establishing 150 housing units for the residents along with a Masjid, a public council, road works in the new residential neighborhood and other related works. The new buildings agree with the view of the Authority

Focusing on the development of strategic infrastructure projects supporting the investments

Preparing the port of Duqm for commercial operation stage and exporting petroleum products

The region is designated as a major center for fishery industries



During working in the second package of the port of Duqm

Improving the urban environment and establishing a modern urban environment in line with the new urban development

Encouraging investors to settle their projects in Duqm by establishing roads in the investment and residential areas



Main road in Duqm city center

to make Duqm a suitable place for work and housing. The residential units reflect the modern architectural character that the Authority is keen to provide new buildings with.

Roads and Lighting

During the past years, many road and lighting projects have been implemented. The lengths of the roads that have been established in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm since 2009 until the end of 2017 are approximately 55 km. The most important of these roads is the Sultan Qaboos Road, which connects Duqm Airport to the port. It consists of 3 lanes in each direction. Tourist road, which is a two-lane road from two alleys in each direction and enjoys a beautiful view of Duqm Beach. The Say Road, which connects the current center of Duqm «SAY area» with the new districts of Duqm such as the labor city and the new commercial district.

The year 2017 witnessed the completion of work in a number of road projects, the most prominent of which is the main road in the center of Duqm city, which was established to improve the urban environment of Wilayat Ad Duqm and to establish a modern urban environment compatible with the new urban development and keeping abreast of the projects in the region. It also aimed to achieve the smooth flow of movement in the center of the city of Duqm and to the commercial, industrial and tourism areas in the region. The length of

the road is seven kilometers with two lanes in each direction and with roads of service from the two sides of 11 km. Major intersections on the public street have been established which operates using light singles.

A number of major roads and service roads are also being constructed in the industrial, tourist and logistics areas, with the aim of encouraging investors to settle their projects in Duqm.

The past years have witnessed the implementation of a number of lighting projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm to reach up to 3104 lighting poles by the end of 2017.

Dams and Drainage Channels

The projects of dams and surface water drainage channels are the most prominent projects that are currently being implemented in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and which are supervised by the Tatweer Duqm Company. These projects include the construction of protection dams and the construction of main and sub drainage channels with enough capacities to drain the water of the valleys so as the rains water may be collected and drained to the sea in a safe manner and through appropriate routes to the expected rainfall amounts in the region.

Attracting Investments

Tatweer Duqm Company is also liable for the development of land and facilities, providing



During working in WADI SAY Dam



LED Lighting

public services and implementing motivating projects to attract investment and accelerate the development and economic development in the region on comprehensive and integrated basis.

The company is also keen to attract national and foreign investments directly and indirectly through partnerships to implement industrial, commercial, service, logistics and tourist projects in the region, to implement the comprehensive structural plan of Duqm, and to provide all necessary services to achieve its vision.

The company said it is looking to capture the investment opportunities available in the region, noting in this regard that in September 2017 it signed a memorandum of understanding with Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone for cooperation. It also confirmed that it seeks to attract many international companies to invest in the Duqm. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone is the largest port company in India. It operates in a number of infrastructure and industrial sectors with an investment of about \$ 12 billion.

Companies Corporation

Tatweer Duqm Company also works in the field of establishing companies with the aim of increasing the investments of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm. The year 2017 witnessed strong efforts by Duqm Development Company to establish Duqm Quarries Company which aims to manage the mineral resources and quarries in Duqm to organize

their exploitation. Duqm Development Company owns 70% of the shares of the new company and the rest shares are distributed to a number of local companies.

Duqm Development Company is currently working with other partners to establish a logistics company and another company to establish a center for the distribution and sale of building materials. In addition, Duqm Development Company is studying investment opportunities of economic feasibility in all fields.

Asset Management

Tatweer Duqm Company is also liable for the management of assets and public facilities such as roads, dams, canals, buildings and water and sanitation projects entrusted to it by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm. It is expected that the next few years will witness the Authority entrusting the management of a number of vital assets to the Tatweer Duqm Company after completion of work. The most important of these assets are: Duqm port, fishing port, Duqm airport, road projects, dams, drainage pipes and many other infrastructure projects.

Attracting Omani Youth

Tatweer Duqm Company said that it focuses on attracting and qualifying Omani youth in various areas of the company, while benefiting from foreign expertise. Omanisation is currently 66% and the company is looking to increase this ratio to 75% by 2020.

Constructing protecting dams and opening main and sub drainage channels with adequate capacity to discharge the valleys

Implementing projects that stimulate investment and accelerating the development and economic development in the region

Attracting Omani youth and working to raise the Omanization rate to 75% by 2020



150 residential units project which is allocated for people is one of the projects which its execution supervised by Tatweer Duqm Company.

Construction Works at the Passenger Terminal Building at Duqm Airport near completion

Workers are racing to complete the project by mid-2018

High number of flights between Muscat and Daqm to 6 flights per week

Duqm airport hosted more than 33 thousand passengers in 2017

Duqm - :

Duqm Airport is currently witnessing many construction works in the passenger terminal building, cargo terminal and control tower. Workers in these projects intend to complete them by the middle of this year.

The current works of the airport are prepared for the full operation after it was opened in 2014 for the flights arriving into and departing from Muscat. This leads to the increase in the number of the passengers through the airport.

The number of flights between Muscat and Duqm increased in 2017 to six flights a day from Saturday to Thursday. The seat capacity of flights was increased through the use of Boeing 737s to keep pace with the growth in passenger numbers.

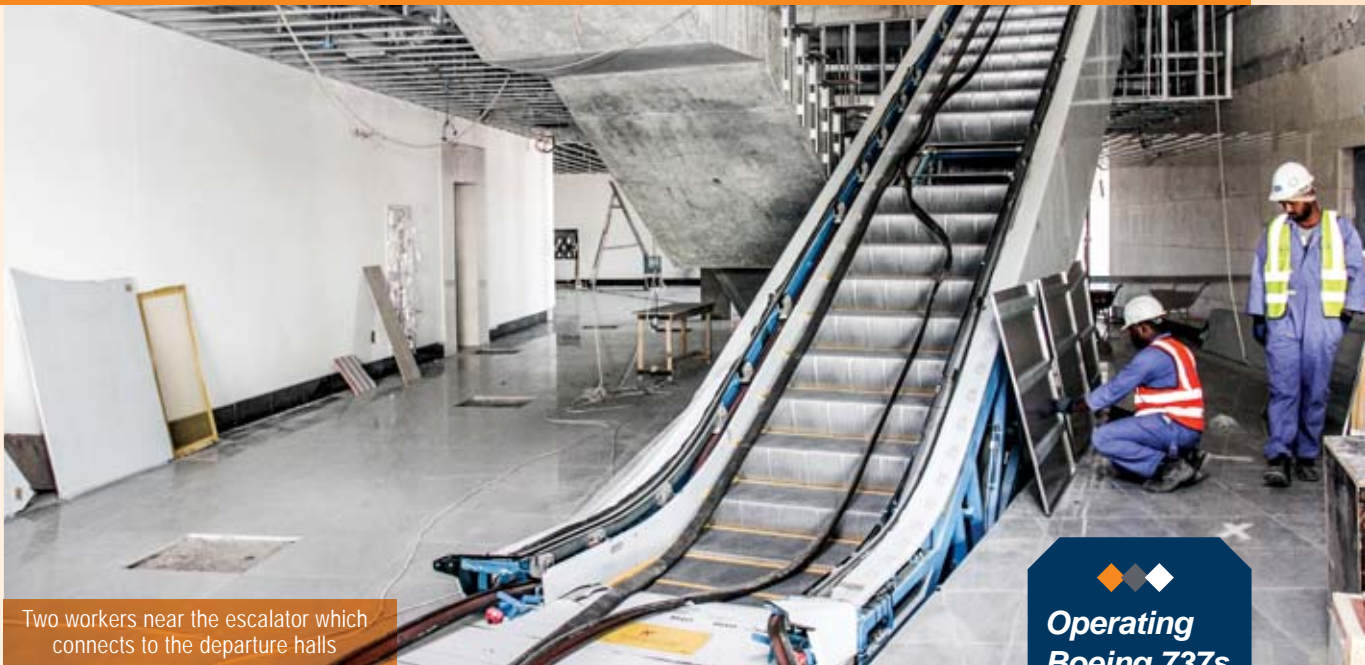
High Passenger Numbers

Statistics indicate that the number of passengers through Duqm airport in last year increased to about 33500 passengers, with an increase of more than 9 thousand compared to 24429 passengers in 2016.

The third package of Duqm Airport, which is currently being implemented, is the last construction package for the airport. It includes the construction of the passenger terminal building, the 37-meter air traffic control tower with the control building, the air cargo building, the fire building, the airport services equipment and maintenance building and many other facilities.

The total area of the passenger building is about 5700 square meters and the capacity of the airport at this stage is 500 thousand pas-

The main entrance of the Passenger Building



Two workers near the escalator which connects to the departure halls

sengers annually, while the cargo building accommodates about 25 thousand tons annually.

The Possibility of Expanding the Airport in the Future

The technical design of Duqm Airport considered that it must be practical to enable passengers to enter and exit easily and smoothly in the shortest possible time. Also, the possibility of expanding the airport and increasing its capacity in passenger numbers and long-term air freight requirements were also considered by horizontal expansion in accordance with the development of aircraft movement and the growth of economic activity.

The airport is a major addition to SEZAD and aims to facilitate the movement of investors, citizens and workers in the region, which is about 550 km far from Muscat. The first and second packages included the construction



of the airport runway with a length of 4 km with the taxi tracks and aircraft-parking stand, which can accommodate four aircrafts including Airbus A380, in addition to the implementation of the road network, rainwater drainage networks, the electricity network and other service facilities.

Operating Boeing 737s to keep up with the increase in passenger numbers

The capacity of the airport at the current stage is 500 thousand passengers per year and 25 thousand tons per year for shipment



Number of employees working in the corridors leading to departure halls

Economic Zone Projects Workers:

Duqm

**is a big project
in which we are
proud to work**



Survey made by Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Shezawi:

A number of employees in the projects being implemented in the Economic Zone of Duqm expressed their happiness for coming to Duqm. They are proud that they are part of this vital project which is making steady progress.

Thousands of workers from all over the world are working silently and are racing just to complete projects on time. During my conversation with them, they confirmed that they had made many friendships with each other and with their Omani colleagues involving in achieving the objectives of the Economic Zone of Duqm. They derived their approach and vision from the nature of the Sultanate and its friendships with different peoples of the world.



Alev Ustunbigak

I Enjoy My Time Here

Alev Ustunbigak, Director of Health, Safety and Environment at Circa company, said that my work at Duqm is a useful experience for me and I enjoy my time here.

Alev came to Duqm in March 2017 after working in a number of Arab, Asian and European countries but she found that Duqm had advantages she didn't find in the cities where she had previously worked.

«The calm in Duqm is one of the reasons why I love this region, as well as being on the sea and off the Indian Ocean is very wonderful and I am happy to be there. I loved Duqm and I am happy to be there» she added.

When I asked her, do not you miss your family? She answered without hesitation: «I miss my family and they miss me too, but Duqm has become an important part of my life where I find my second family and I love my work and enjoy it.»

«Duqm is also suitable for the privacy of women, no one here bothers us, and the Sultanate is a wonderful country and I wish it every progress and prosperity» she added.

I am lucky

While talking about her experience, Pelin Tunces thought that she was lucky to be in Duqm. She said: «The most thing I like in Duqm, is its moderate atmosphere throughout the year and despite the winds of some of the summer months, the atmosphere of the region



Pelin Tunces

remains the best among many other regions.» She recalled her previous work in Russia, saying: «The atmosphere was terrible and we were working in the temperature at 20 degrees below zero. The atmosphere is beautiful in Duqm makes me feel very happy.»

It was not only the moderate temperatures that tempted the active accountant of Cirque company, Belen Tunisis, to stay in Duqm but also she thinks that Duqm had other advantages such as lack of traffic congestion and family atmosphere with other colleagues in the company whose relations of friendship are constantly being established, in addition, to the sea and its comfort and reassurance to those who love this blue wave

«I like my job at Duqm and I'm proud of what I do. I came to the region in March 2017 and have now completed 6 months but I will stay there until the completion of the project.» she added.

She remembered her last vacation in her country Turkey saying: «Three days after I arrived in my country, I told my mother,» I will go back to Duqm. My mother marveled at this saying: «Do you return to that desert so quickly?! I answered her without hesitation saying that it is an important part of my life and I miss it so much».

I Will Stay in Duqm until the Completion of the Project

The answers of Ayca Bayer, an engineer in Circa company design department, were simi-

We enjoy our time in Duqm and we do not feel alienation here

Alev Ustunbigak said that Duqm has become an important part of my life and I am happy to be there

Pelin Tunces said that I love my work in Duqm and I'm proud of what I have do



A worker in the building of the government berth smiling in front of the camera performing his work

Ayca Bayer
said that the
landscape,
sea and ocean
are beautiful
things that
have become
part of my life



Ahmet Sayiner



Ayca Bayer

**Ahmet Say-
iner** said that
the Sultanate
of Oman is a
safe country
and I find my
comfort

lar to the answers of her colleagues at the company, and she seemed to be upheld by Duqm.

«I came to Duqm in April 2017 and I will stay there until 2019 when the completion of the project on which we are working» she said.

I asked her what do you like about Duqm ?, she said: «landscape, sea and ocean». These are beautiful things that have become part of my life. The area has many things that I find for the first time and they make me miss when I leave.

The Duqm is Amazing

«Duqm is amazing» Ahmet Sayiner started his speech saying that Ahmet worked in six countries before he arrived the Sultanate in March 2017 to work as a construction manager in the second package project from the port of Duqm. He added that he worked at night and sometimes during the day according to the work program approved in the project in which work continues at night and day.

«The good relations between the Sultanate and Turkey are a catalyst for us Turks to work in this beautiful country with which we have strong relations of friendship.» he said, expressing his satisfaction at working in Duqm and that he found during his meetings with Omani youth that there are many points of convergence between the two friendly peoples. He added: «when I was told that I would go to Duqm; I looked at the information available on

the internet and then agreed to come».

In his speech, Ahmet referred to other reasons that made him prefer to work in Duqm, the most important of which is the Sultanate's security and safety. He recalled his work in one of the previous countries saying: «We were working in unstable areas witnessing multiple conflicts. Oman is a safe country and I find my comfort there».

Perfect Place where to Work

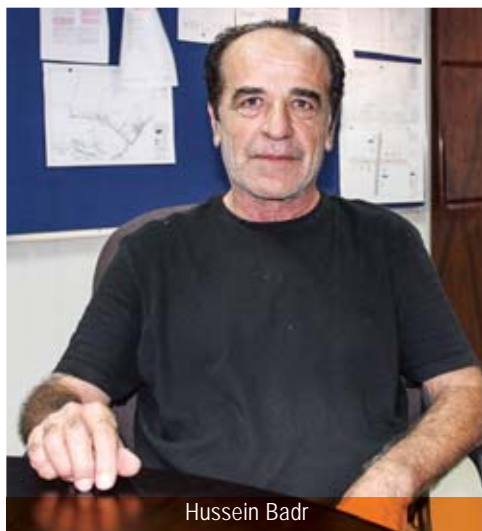
Abdullah Azzam, a civil engineer and project manager at United Gulf Construction Co. WLL, who spent 30 years working in one of the Gulf countries, found that Duqm is an ideal place where to work because of its calmness and good dealing that not only restricted to Omanis but also the various nationalities operating in the region. «Our company has a number of nationalities but we enjoy equal rights. Love and brotherhood are prevailing among us and perhaps which is a reflection of what is prevalent in the Sultanate in general» he pointed out.

He added: «There is also an understanding from the Economic Zone Authority to correct the problems and challenges that we face and seek to resolve. Despite this flexibility, which we find from the authority, they are at the same time firm in the aspects when necessary.

Duqm is Dear to Us

Hussein Bader, deputy project manager

**Abdullah
Azzam** said that Duqm is a
perfect place
where you
can work



Hussein Bader



Abdullah Azzam

Hussein Badr
said that what
happened in
Duqm during
the past years
is a great
achievement



Ashraf Abbas



Jovert B. Sollano

Jovert B. Sollano said that when I came to Duqm in 2009, I found only one shop selling food, a restaurant and a cafe

at United Gulf Company, is one of those who worked in Duqm in 2006 when the government decided to establish the port and continued his work until 2011. He then moved to a number of Arab countries but eventually returned to the Sultanate to work as of October 2017 in the third package project of the port of Duqm.

After staying away from Duqm for about 6 years and after he moved among number of other cities, I asked him why did you return to Duqm? He answered spontaneously: «Duqm is dear to me».

How do you see Duqm now? He said: «What happened in Duqm during the past years is a great achievement. Duqm is witnessing great development. When we came here in 2006, there was nothing but a restaurant, a coffee shop, a grocery store, a filling station, and nothing else.

I am Happy with the Growth of Duqm

From the Philippines, Jovert B. Sollano, who came to Duqm in 2009 to work for the consulting company that oversaw the construction of the dry dock, and is now working for the consulting company overseeing the construction of the second batch of the port of Duqm.

Recalling this date, Jovert smiles saying that there was nothing in Duqm at that time. Duqm has changed a lot and is now growing in many sectors. When I came to Duqm about 9 years ago it did not have anything of amenities. The

roads were dirt, and there was no hotel, but there was only one shop selling food, a restaurant and a cafe. Today, Duqm has become a city including hotels, restaurants and a large number of food shops and other shops. The roads have become paved. All this has been achieved in a short period of time and I am glad that I have witnessed this growth in the region and that I have contributed to it and still do.

On his weekend, Jovert spends his time fishing or watching birds. He is impressed by the nature of Duqm. He concluded saying that I loved Duqm and I'm happy to be there.

I Admire Duqm

Ashraf Abbas, who came from Pakistan in 2009 to work in Duqm, confirms his love to the Sultanate. «The Sultanate is the first country I visit. I admire it very much and if I leave it, I will not go to work in any other country, I will return to my country,» he said.

Ashraf Abbas worked in Duqm until 2013 and then moved to Al-Hallaniyah and Khasab. He returned to it again in August 2016 to work in the consulting company that oversees the work of the third batch of the port of Duqm.

When he talked about the change that Duqm has experienced since his arrival in 2009 and until today, he said that what happened in the region of growth is a miracle. That desert turned into a city. I enjoy staying there.

Ashraf Abbas said that that desert turned into a city and I enjoy living there



Workers implementing a road in the government quay

Investments of more than OMR

610
million in 2017



Attention to landscaping and guiding signs all over Duqm

87 agreements for usufruct and development signed



Number of clients at one-stop shop in Duqm

Duqm - :

In 2017, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) succeeded in attracting several investment projects and signed 87 usufruct and development agreements with local and international companies for projects that would take place on 1.9 million square meters. The cost of the projects granted last year was OMR 610.2 million with an expected generation of more than

2200 jobs for Omani and foreign nationals.

The last year witnessed a good interest by local and international companies to invest in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD). The one-stop shop in SEZAD received 256 investment applications, of which 141 were for investment in the construction of commercial residential buildings, 93 in the industrial sector, 14 in the tourism sector, 7 in the logistics sector and 1 in the residential sector.




**256
applications
for
investment in
SEZD**


**Agreements
and
developments
creat 2200
jobs**



Resort Road where Crowne Plaza Hotel, Park Inn Resort and many future tourism projects are located

30 usufruct and development in industry sector

Industry on top

The projects granted usufruct in 2017 concentrated in the industrial sector by 30 agreements followed by the commercial residential projects with 27 agreements, then commercial projects with 16 agreements, followed by tourism with 13 agreements, and 1 agreement in the logistics sector (warehouses and stores) with an investment of OMR 50,000.

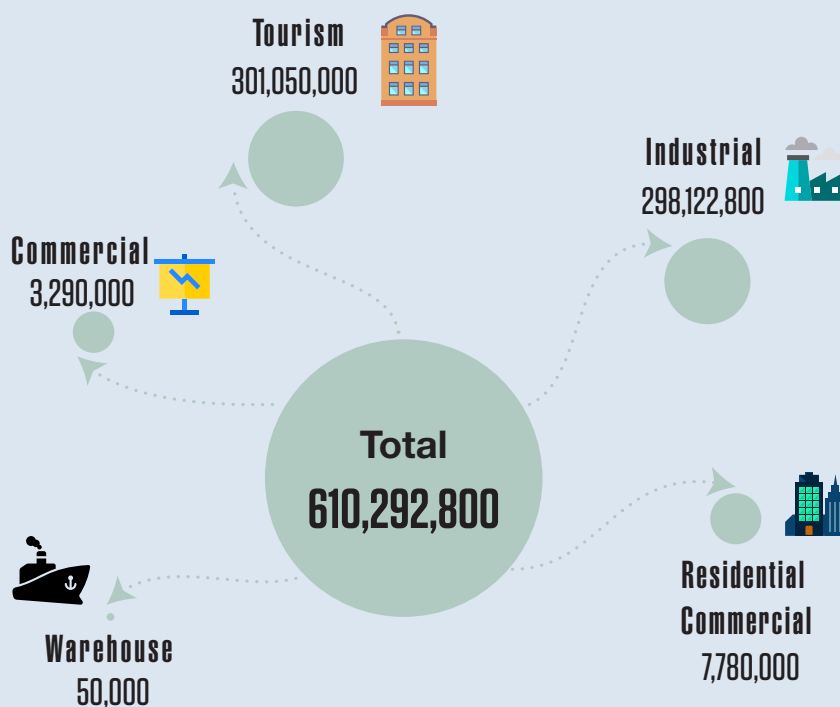
Tourism investments in the foreground

The tourism projects attracted by

SEZAD during 2017 came first in terms of cost with OMR 301 million while industrial investments came second with OMR 298.1 million. The estimated investment cost of commercial housing projects was OMR 7.7 million in the third place followed by investments in the commercial sector by OMR 3.2 million.

«little India» tops the companies

According to statistical data obtained by Duqm Economist, little India Company



Total investments by sector

Top 10 projects in terms of investment cost

No.	Company Name	Type of project	Project	Cost value (R.O.)
1	Little India	Tourism	Hotel, Leisure and Entertainment Facilities	288,000,000
2	Al Wasta Cement L.L.C	Industrial	Cement factory	265,000,000
3	Hormuz Al Anwar Cement SAOC	Industrial	Cement factory	11,000,000
4	King Group Middle East and Asia	Tourism	Four Star Hotel	6,200,000
5	Darvesh Investment	Industrial	fishery products	6,000,000
6	Al Saleh Enterprises	industrial	fish meal and fish oil	5,000,000
7	Arabian Foods	Industrial	factory to produce dairy products and juices	2,500,000
8	Al Tasnim Enterprises	Industrial	Asphalt Factory	2,000,000
9	Al Saleh Enterprises	Tourism	Hotel	1,800,000
10	Global Secrets Trading	Industrial	Production of Meal and Fish Oil	1,500,000

project for the establishment of an integrated tourist complex came in the forefront in terms of investment value with OMR 288 million followed by the Central Cement project with OMR 265 million. The project of Hormuz Al-Anwar for the establishment of a cement factory came third with OMR 11 million while a 4-star hotel that the Royal Group for the Middle East and Asia is planning came fourth with OMR 6.2 million followed by the project of Darfish Investment Company for fisheries factory in the fifth place with OMR 6 million.

Small and Medium Enterprises

The statistical data showed that 70 projects had estimated investments of less than OMR 1 million, including 16 projects below OMR 100,000. This reflects the increasing demand by SMEs to invest in Duqm and benefit from the economic growth wit-

nessed in SEZD. The pipe-manufacturing project of Al-Dar International Company is the lowest project in terms of cost with OMR 15,000.

Various projects

The list of investments that signed agreements with SEZAD in 2017 included a variety of projects. The industrial sector shall have factories for freezing and canning fish products, production of fish powder and oil, design of steel structures, gas filling, asphalt production, production of dairy and juice, caravans industry, road lighting production, pipe manufacturing and other projects.

In the tourism sector, a number of hotels, leisure and tourism facilities will be established. In the commercial and residential sectors, many buildings and offices will be constructed, as well as a fuel station and a training institute.

OMR 301 million cost of tourism investments and OMR 298.1 million for industrial sector

SMEs are looking to capitalize on economic growth in Duqm



Informative Board for the road leading to the fisheries area

(DPM) for Investment in the Slovak Republic praises the available opportunities:

Duqm is worth investing not only for the Slovaks but also for the EU



Slovak Deputy Prime Minister (in middle) listening to an explanation of a project

Duqm advantages are good, facilities are attractive and we will convey our views to the Slovak companies

Duqm -

H.E. Peter Pellegrini, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) for Investment in the Slovak Republic, praised the potential of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) and its various investment opportunities.

In a statement to Duqm Economist, Pellegrini stated, «I think SEZD is promising, and it is possible that some Slovak companies would like to invest therein in spare parts and vehicle manufacturing.»

«Our visit to the Sultanate of Oman is successful and we will convey our views on this visit to the companies in our country and tell them that the Sultanate has prepared a large economic zone with an area of 2000 square kilometers with very good facilities and advantages. It deserves investment not only for the Slovaks but also for the EU,» added Pellegrini.

«It is a pleasure for us as a Slovak delegation to have the opportunity to visit SEZD to check out the airport and its construction works. It is also good

for Slovak companies to identify the investment system supported by the Omani Government to bring investment to SEZD and to view the fee system,» stated Slovak DPM for Investment.

Upcoming visits

«I am really happy to come to Oman and visit SEZD. I think this visit will be followed by others from the Slovaks to the Sultanate, not only for tourism but also for investment,» he said.

He noted that the Sultanate of Oman and Slovakia have good relations of friendship and this is one of the fruits of friendship stressing that his visit came out with many visions and programs to develop the existing relations between the two countries.

He concluded his statement by stressing that he hopes to see major strategic projects in the Sultanate of Oman.

Seeing projects

During his visit to SEZD in October 2017, H.E. Peter Pellegrini, DPM for Investment in the Slovak Republic and



During one visual presentation

his delegation, toured a number of projects in SEZD, such as Duqm Airport, Dry Dock and Duqm Port. They watched presentations made by SEZAD, Oman Dry Dock Company, and Oman Oil Company.

Integrated incentives package

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chair of SEZAD, confirmed to H.E. Peter Pellegrini and his accompanying delegation the economic importance of Duqm, pointing to the government investments in establishing the infrastructure of SEZD, Duqm Airport, Duqm Port, the dry dock and other projects. Al-Jabri asserted that SEZD has many comparative and competitive advantages and offers an integrated package of incentives and facilities to investors.

During his visit to the Sultanate, H.E. DPM for Investment of the Slovak Republic was accompanied by a delegation of more than 30 government officials and Slovak businesspeople.



During his statement to Duqm Economist

Looking forward to seeing great strategic projects in the Sultanate of Oman



A commemorative photo in front of Oman Dry Dock Company building

Chair of SEZAD invites Shandong Province to invest in Duqm



Li Qun hopes to open new horizons for cooperation between the two countries

Duqm has a geographical location that allows Chinese companies to easily access Asian and African markets

Muscat - :

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), invited the Government of Shandong Province to invest in Duqm.

This took place during a meeting with H.E. Li Qun, Deputy Governor of the Chinese Shandong Province and reserve member of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), who visited the Sultanate in November 2017 to discuss the development of economic relations between the two countries and efforts to increase trade exchange and consolidate joint investments.

«We welcome more Chinese investments in SEZD,» said Al-Jabri praising China's investments in SEZD within the Sino-Omani Industrial City supported by the Chinese government and the Chinese Ningxia region.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the growing economic relations between the two countries and the efforts exerted to develop them. The meeting also discussed the investment opportunities available in SEZD for the investors, the incentives offered by SEZAD to investors, the geographical location of SEZD, and the infrastructure projects currently witnessed in SEZD along with private sector investments, especially the Chinese investments.

The Chair of SEZAD explained that SEZAD

provides many facilities to investors, noting the geographical location of SEZD, which allows Chinese companies to access many Asian and African markets easily.

Many areas of cooperation

On his part, Li Qun, expressed his happiness to visit the Sultanate, noting that there are many possible areas of cooperation between the two sides. He reviewed the advantages of Shandong Province expressing his hope that the visit would contribute to opening new horizons for cooperation between the Sultanate and China and strengthening the existing relations between the two countries.


The meeting witnessed offering visual presentations on SEZD, Oman Oil Company and Duqm port.

During his visit to the Sultanate, the Chinese official also met with H.E. Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al-Sunaidi, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Mulhim Bashir Al-Jarf, Head of the Investment Unit of the State Reserve Fund.

Shandong Province is located on the east coast of China and is famous for a number of agricultural products. It is also rich in minerals, natural resources and heavy industries. Qingdao Port in Shandong Province is one of the major world ports and its loading and unloading volume in 2016 was about 500 million tons, seventh in the world.



Signing usufruct and development agreement for an integrated tourist complex in Duqm

Muscat -  :

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), signed an agreement (Thursday, 7 December 2017) with little India Company as a developer that plans to establish an integrated tourism complex in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).


SEZAD
*allocates 600
thousand
square
meters for
the project*





During the signing of the usufruct and development agreement

Ismail Al-Balushi: The new project is part of SEZAD efforts to attract quality projects

Includes 5-star hotel, resorts, yacht marina, and residential and commercial complexes

Investment cost is about OMR 288 million and implementation in stages

Pradeep Nair signed the agreement on behalf of little India Company in his capacity as its Chair in the presence of H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, the Indian ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of officials, businesspeople and traders at the main building of Bank Muscat.

The new tourism project includes a 5-star hotel, resorts, yacht marina, various commercial complexes and an integrated residential complex with beach-front villas and apartments. Its estimated investment cost is about USD 748 million, equivalent to OMR 288 million.

SEZAD allocated about 600 thousand square meters for the project, which will

be in the tourist area on Duqm coast and implemented in different stages according to the timetable approved by the parties.

New Addition

«The signing of the usufruct agreement for the new project is part of SEZAD efforts to attract quality projects and investments that provide a good addition to SEZD and contribute to enhancing economic diversification therein,» said Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Deputy CEO of SEZAD.

He pointed out that with the growing interest in SEZAD, these projects will provide new opportunities for the devel-



Project unveiling



Signing the financing agreement

opment of Duqm and create job opportunities that correspond to the aspirations of the local community and surrounding areas. Al-Balushi indicated that the new project would contribute to support the tourism sector in SEZD, especially that the renowned Marriott International will manage the 5-star hotel.

Signing Financing Agreement

The ceremony also included the signing of the financing agreement between Little India Company and Methaq Islamic Banking by Sulaiman bin Hamad Al-Harthy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Banking, Bank Muscat, on behalf of Methaq.

Al-Harthy said, «In Methaq, we are pleased to sign this agreement with Small India Company. The project is one of the important projects that contribute to attract investments that provide a good addition to SEZD and contribute to enhancing economic diversification there. We call upon Omani investors and businesspeople to take advantage of investment opportunities in the Duqm region or in SEZD, to take the initiative in investing, and to establish various projects that contribute to diversifying the national economy and providing more job opportunities.»

Al-Harthy explained that there are


Sulaiman Al-Harthy:
Pleased to sign the financing agreement and ready to finance more economic projects



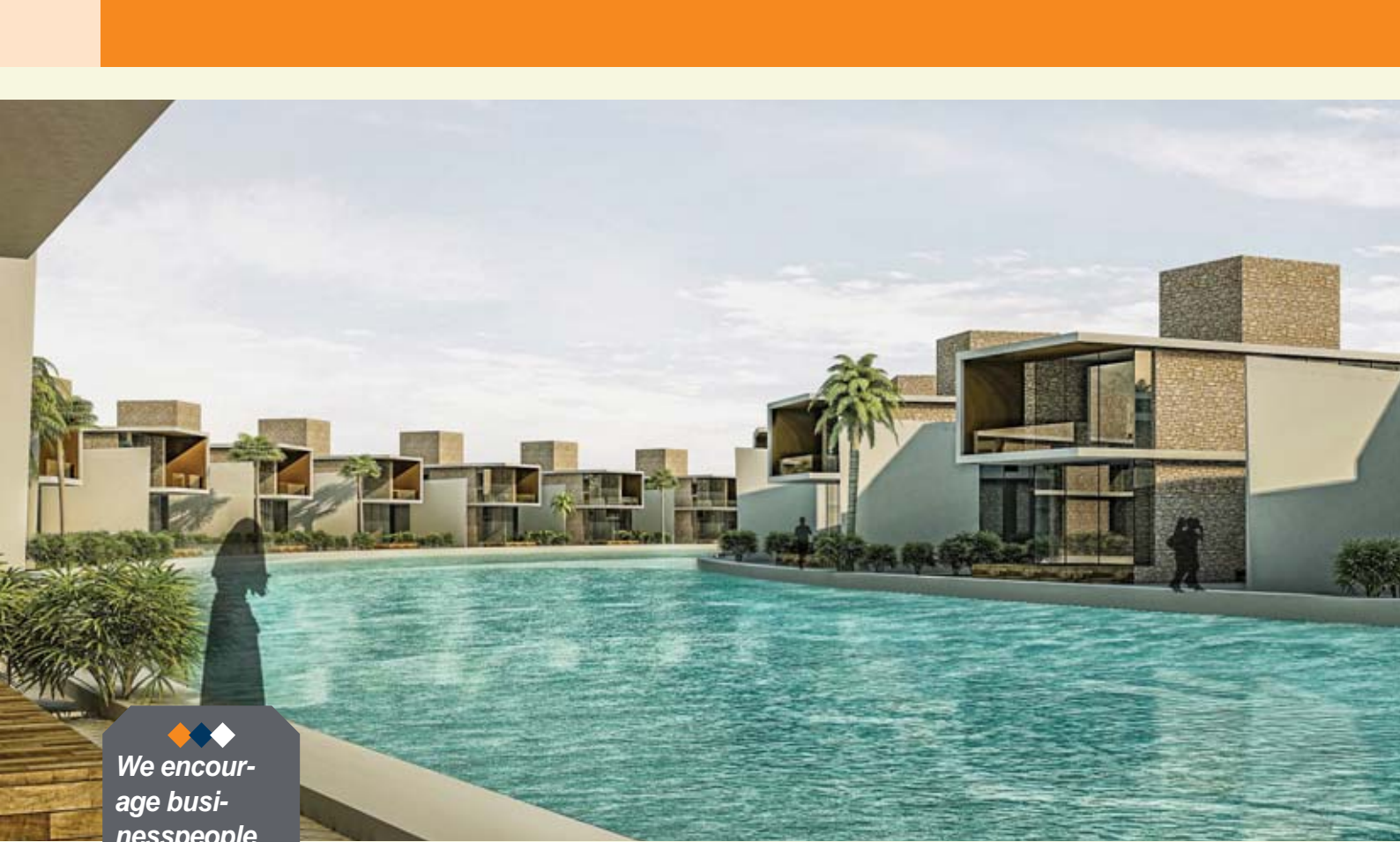
Focus on investments
that provide a good addition to SEZD and contribute to enhancing economic diversification



We encourage businesspeople to create projects that contribute to diversifying the national economy and providing more jobs



Pradeep Nair:
Completion of the first phase of the project during 2018



many lands owned by Omanis in many important sites, whether for tourism, commercial, industrial or other uses but remain not invested so far. «We call on everyone to invest in them. Methaq Islamic banking is ready to provide advice and funding for the implementation of these projects after reviewing their respective feasibility studies.»

Completion of first phase in 2018

«The first phase of the project, which includes the construction of the resort,

will finish in 2018,» said Pradeep Nair, Chair of Small India Company, praising the investment procedures in the Sultanate, especially in SEZD in terms of expeditious issuing of permits.

Multiple Agreements

Moreover, little India Company also signed an agreement to manage its 5-star hotel with the US Marriott Group, a real estate development MoU with Sanjay Puri Master Company, and an agreement with US EMG Digital Marketing Company.

Al Wusta Cement Company obtains usufruct for the construction of Duqm Plant



Signing the agreement with the Chair of Oman Cement Company

Muscat - :

On 5 October 2017, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) signed a land usufruct agreement with Al-Wusta Cement Company to establish a cement plant in Duqm.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chair, Dr. Abdullah bin Abbas bin Ahmed, Chair of Oman Cement Company, and Ahmed bin Yousef bin Alawi, Chair of Raysut Cement Company.

Under the terms of renewable 50-year usufruct agreement, Al-Wusta Cement Company acquired a land area of 500 thousand square meters in the heavy industry area to establish the plant.

Al-Wusta Cement Company is the latest investment in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) registered as a limited liability company in partnership between Oman Cement Company and Raysut Cement Company.


Al-Wusta Cement Company indicated that the construction work of the project will start in 2018 and production in 2020 with a capacity of 5 thousand tons per day that would gradually increase to 10 thousand tons per day according to mar-

ket needs. It noted that the company's production of cement would contribute to cover the deficit in domestic demand, whether from the public sector for infrastructure or private sector companies and the company would export the surplus.

Business opportunities for SMEs

The company expects the new project would provide many business opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by activating the activities of auxiliary companies to produce cement, such as transport companies and rock detonation companies to provide raw materials from quarries to the plant. It will also activate the movement of companies operating in the field of loading, unloading, packaging and storage, in addition to stimulating construction companies.

Al-Wusta Cement Company is the third cement production company in the Sultanate after Oman Cement Company, which in 2016 produced 2.3 million tons of cement, Raysut Cement Company, which produced 2.3 million tons of cement from its Salalah plant


Production capacity starts at 5000 tons per day and rises according to market needs


Company starts production in 2020 and project supports many sectors



Chair of Raysut Cement Company signs the agreement

Opening of Renaissance Village in Duqm



It included 17,000 beds. It offers new options for the accommodation of workers in the Economic Zone

200,000 square meters which is the project area .. at a cost of RO 75 million

Duqm -Saleh Nabhan Al-Maamari:

The Economic Zone of Duqm celebrated, in November 2017, the opening of Renaissance residential project under the patronage of His Excellency Sayyid Fatik Bin Fahr Bin Taimur Al Said. It includes around 17000 beds to accommodate the workforce of various companies and projects in the Economic Zone of Duqm. It was established on an area of 200,000 square meters at a cost of RO 75,000000.

After unveiling the projects commemorative plaque, His Excellency Sayyid Fatik Bin Fahr Al Said accompanied by the audience toured the village. They toured the residential buildings and distinguishing service facilities, such as the laundry station, stores, medical

clinic, gymnasium and restaurant, which accommodate a large number of workers at the same time and also offers various kinds of local and international dishes.

Providing Workers with Stability

During the opening ceremony, «The project is one of the largest investments of Renaissance Services SAOG in the Sultanate as we believe in the importance of the Economic Zone of Duqm and its economic, and what it represents of economic and investment weight « H.H. Sayyid Tarik Bin Shabib Al-Said, Chairman of Al-Nahda Housing Company – Duqm, said

“Renaissance Village in Duqm will provide stability to the workers in the region at reason-





able and competitive prices due to its excellence in the integration of services and facilities. We also hope that the local community in Duqm will enjoy a better future through the functional services and opportunities of the project. In this project, we help and support the construction and development of this new city and this is one of our goals» H.H added.

Distinguished Project

Stephen Thomas, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Al Renaissance Services SAOG, said: "Renaissance Village is one of the most important projects of Renaissance Services SAOG in the Sultanate. The cost of the project is about RO 75 million and it is a direct and sustainable local investment. This project is characterized by international specifications and standards taking into consideration the accommodation environment, ventilation, and health communities and services and waste management.»

He added: «Our customers today are from various companies operating in the region, particularly the Port of Duqm Company SAOC, Oman Drydock Company S.A.O.C, Duqm Refinery and a number of large companies in the region. We are also keen to apply the standards

of safety, health, food and other services with high standards. Moreover, we have put reasonable economic prices in order for our services to continue to provide sustainably adequate accommodation for employees in the region.

High Standards

He pointed out that the Sultanate, by setting the principle of high standards in providing housing services with international specifications and standards, which are a mixture of Eastern and Western standards, indicates to the world the extent of the service provided by it in housing accommodation for all levels of workers in the workforce in the Economic Zone of Duqm. They will certainly stimulate investors and businessmen. The region will witness growth in many sectors, particularly the oil and gas sector. These companies can provide their employees with convenient and safe housing in Renaissance Village, which offers many benefits and services.

It is worth mentioning that Renaissance Housing Company, Renaissance Services SAOG, Royal Court Affairs, Ministry of Defense Pension Fund, Bank Muscat and Al-Khondji Group contribute in Renaissance Village in Duqm.

«The village is the largest investment of the Renaissance Services SAOG in the Sultanate» Tariq Bin Shabib said.

«The project is characterized by international specifications and standards taking into account accommodation environment and provision of entertainment services» Stephen Thomas said.



Based on Strategic Investments from Oman and Qatar

Laid the foundation stone for the project of manufacturing buses at Duqm



Yahya Al-Jabri and representatives of project partners during the laying of the foundation stone

Duqm -

Investment of \$ 90 million in the first phase

The factory's production starts at 1000 buses per year and rises to 3,000 in the final phase of the project

On November 30, 2017, the construction of a buses manufacturing project in Special Economic Zone at Duqm under the name of «Karwa Motors» was launched in a strategic partnership between Mowasalat HQ, the national transport company in Qatar, which owns 70% of the project capital and Oman Investment Fund which is a sovereign fund in the Sultanate that owns 30% of the project.

The two parties will invest about \$ 90 million in the first phase of the project at an area of 220,000 square meter, which has the potential to become an active hub for the buses industry in the long term.

During the inauguration ceremony, HE. Yahya bin Saeed bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Economic Zone Authority, laid the foundation stone for the project with the participation of the partners' representatives.

The ceremony was attended by Khalid Nasser Al Hail, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Karwa Motors, Nasser bin Mohammed Al Malki, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Mowasalat HQ, Khalid Al Yahmadi, CEO of the Oman Investment Fund and Vice Chairman of Karwa Motors.

Strategic Investment

«The laying of the foundation stone is a key milestone in the implementation of a historic initiative to build the first buses manufacturing and assembly factory in the Sultanate as a strategic investment by the governments of the Sultanate and Qatar,» Khalid Nasser Al Hail, Chairman of Karwa Motors said.

In his speech during the ceremony, he added that the project will be completed by the end of



Khalid Al Hail:
We look forward to becoming a new leader in providing regional buses

2019 provided that the actual production will be in the second quarter of 2020. He explained that the initial planned production capacity is the production of 1000 buses per year which will rise at the peak production to 3000 buses after the gradual expansion of the factory based on the level of market requirement for its products. He pointed out that the factory was designed to produce various buses such as civil buses and school buses dedicated to meet the needs of local and regional markets.

Reducing Freight Times

Hail indicated in a speech the advantages



available at Special Economic Zone at Duqm, which contributes to achieving the objectives of the new project which is located close to the multi-purpose port of Duqm said: «The proximity and ease of access to the port of Duqm ensures reducing shipping times and the time and effort usually required in the land transport of raw materials, for the rapid delivery of buses. This in turn will also help to expedite the clearance of goods in the port and reduce the cost and storage time».

Expected Markets

Regarding the expected markets, Hail said:»This factory will allow Karwa Motors to sell its buses in the largest markets in the Middle East and North Africa region with greater flexibility and priority to Oman and Qatar markets, while demand for buses around the world is increasing. This is the first step for the new company to become a leader in providing regional buses on the regional level.

Integrated Vehicle Manufacturing Group

He added that the new factory will be equipped with the latest technological technology in its field. It will initially be equipped with welding, dyeing and assembly equipment for the buses. The project is expected to bring more investments in the automotive spare parts, other automotive components and other engineering and electronic services and workshops. Thus, they establish an integrated vehicle manufacturing group in Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

He added that the project also has the potential to stimulate the growth and prosperity of the automotive components sector, as well as contribute to the refinement of specialized technical skills in this field. It also contributes to making the Sultanate an attractive destination in the field of automotive manufacturing. The project will also play a prominent role in supporting the development of advanced design innovation and expansion of engineering knowledge in this field in Oman, in addition to further expansion of product

design processes related to automotive manufacturing.

The largest Company in the Region

Khalid Al-Hail, Chairman of Karwa Motors said:»We are keen to make the most of the existing supply chain network in the automotive market in Oman in order to gain a foothold in the Sultanate and Qatar.» He expected that the new company will become the largest company of its kind in the region by 2022.

He explained that the expected success of this project is that the company has chosen Chinese Haier Company, a famous company in the field of buses manufacturing, as a technology partner and supplier of tools and equipment (CKD) for this project. Haier Company is recognized as one of the fastest growing brands in the world in manufacturing high-quality buses, supported by its high level of innovation and the highest standards of safety and reliability.

Transfer of Knowledge and Skills Development

With regard to the gains and benefits provided by the project to the society in addition to job opportunities, Khalid Al Hail said: «As with any automotive industry anywhere in the world, Karwa Motors is expected to make a significant contribution to the transfer of knowledge, skills development and the achievement of high levels of social and economic development within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and its surroundings, as well as providing technical and managerial opportunities for a large number of Omani youth specialized in this field.»

He expected that the project will provide 200 jobs in the first phase, and that the number will double in the subsequent stages when the expansion of the project in addition to the recruitment in the departments of research development and manufacture of spare parts, design and international marketing.



The project will be completed by the end of 2019 and the actual production will be in the second quarter of 2020

The establishment of the factory near the port of Duqm contributes to reducing the shipping times and rapid clearance of goods, and reduces the cost and time of storage.

The project is expected to attract more investments in the automotive spare parts industry



International Multimodal Transport and its role in Enhancing the Capabilities of Economic Zones

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International Trade and Logistics

The Economic Adviser to the
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Logistics and International Multimodal Transport

At present, in the context of economic globalization, with the geographical expansion of markets, which have become world-wide, and taking into account fierce global competition, producers are focusing on production and transport logistics in order to bring costs to their lowest level and thus achieve Cost Leadership. This allows competitive pricing, while providing high-quality service. The competitiveness of goods in international trade movement is largely governed by a number of factors, including the cost of transport and distribution, which includes for examples transport costs, the cost of transport time, the importance of the time factor in the delivery of goods, the safety of goods and uncertainty factors, each of which is of different importance and weight depending on the good type, quality, grade, origin, costs and target market.

The economic environment in which sea-ports operate is represented in many parties combined by a set of direct and indirect relations, so that the whole relations of these parties constitute what can be called the economic environment of the port. The role of these relations increases in light of the economic and political changes reflected by the new world order concepts, globalization, economic blocs and mechanisms of free economy. Thus, the concept of the comprehensive and wider scope of the economic environment of a port with a geographic scope is conceived to include the whole world with its five continents, especially if the port is located in a distinguished location.

Thus, the economic environment of the port includes all parties whose activities are linked directly or indirectly to the work of the port, including shipping companies, agents, internal pull means and international multimodal transport operators such as the land transport companies, railways, exporters, importers and other parties who have relations with the port. The port aims to maximize the value of activities provided to customers and users. On the other hand, those customers and users can maximize the value of their activities and maximize their profits if the productivity of the port increased and if the cost of the services performed in it decreased to achieve competitive advantage in terms of quality and cost.

Maritime transport as a key link in the global supply chain includes many entangled and complex relationships among the various parties operating within its scope. The matrix analyzing the relations among the parties of the maritime transport market, which include shipping companies, port authority, trading, shipping and unloading companies, transport sector units in Al Duheer area, international multimodal transport operators, freight forwarders, cargo owners and stakeholders in these goods. It is clear that the objectives of each party of the

In ancient times, geography scientist Ptolemy wrote about the Port of Muscat as one of the most important ports on the route of navigation from the Gulf to China, India and East Africa. Muscat also emerged as a major port on the spice route map drawn in 1649 on the road from Cape of Good Hope to the Bay of Bengal in India. Spices, tea, gold, ivory, silk and other goods from India, China and the Spice Islands were transported in boats to Omani ports at the entrance of the Arabian Gulf and then carried by caravans to the shores of the Levant and Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea.

The history witnesses on the spread of Omani commercial seaports and fishing ports along the coast extending from Khasab to Sohar, Muttrah, Muscat, Qalhat and Samharam in Dhofar.

In the Ras Al Jinz region, remains of a vessel that was used in trade with India 4,500 years ago were found. This vessel is the evidence that Oman, known in ancient times as "Majan", had maritime-commercial relations with the cities of Ur and Sumer in Iraq and Gujarat in India. Copper trade flourished in Sohar, Samad al-Shan and Masirah Island. Dhofar witnessed frankincense trade with the Kingdom of Saba, India, Egypt, Rome and China from the ports of Khor Ror, Bled and Mirbat, and the trade of Omani pottery vessels throughout the Arabian Peninsula. In the 8th century AD, the Omani sailor Abu Obaida bin Abdullah bin Qasim Al Omani who is believed to be "Sinbad the Sailor" arrived to Canton in China. In addition, the famous sailor Ahmed bin Majid was one of the most important and great sea princes in the fifteenth century.

In the 18th century, Muscat emerged as one of the most important maritime trade centers in the Indian Ocean. Omani maritime influence extended to Gwadar in Pakistan, Shaharar, Hermaz, Bandar Abbas and Qashm in Iran and a number of ports in the Horn of Africa. Omani ships reached distant cities including London and New York.

This page brief of Oman's ancient history; if we look deeply at its content, it is evident to us that what we have mentioned is an early application of international multimodal transportation of goods by land and sea in successive integrated operations in consistency and system where Oman has long been one of its pillars and axis throughout history, and where Omani seaports have been a key link in the East-West transport chain, from north to south, and vice versa.



maritime transport market in its activities and relations with other parties, and relation making tools that include marketing tools (product / service), pricing tools, promotion, scope of services, overall quality, negotiation capacity, management skills and technological applications.

International Multimodal Transport

It is a process of transporting goods by different modes of transport, where one organizer is liable for the whole transport process starting from the starting point and through a different set of points connecting the starting point with the end point, to the last port or end point. Several documents are issued depending on how the responsibility of the process of transport is divided and how to carry it through the different stages of the transfer process.

The international multimodal transport operators enter into contract with the shipper but under the name of its company as the main party who shall be responsible for the entire transmission process as set out in the contract. The international multimodal transport operator is a natural carrier as it is liable for the task of performing the multimodal transport. It assumes responsibility for any damage or loss caused to goods during transport. There are several forms of multimodal international transport operators. They can be divided into maritime carriers and others of non-ship public carriers.

For a long time, the task of ship owners was restricted to the simple transfer of cargo from one seaport to another. They determined their responsibility for the shipment from the moment they were loaded onto the ship until their unloading. Now, the ship owners are expanding their services to include sea, land and air transport as well. The Integration of these various types of transport enable those companies engaged in transport by ship to be called the international multimodal transport operators engaged in maritime transport. Other means of transport may be required such as by railways, air transport or land transport. If the company does not have the said means of transport, the company

is organized through subcontracting with the operators of these means of transport.

In addition, as for the position of carriers engaged in a single transport means, they may subcontract the loading, unloading and storage process. In addition to providing such services, they provide other complementary services such as customs clearance. Multimodal transport operators engaged in transportation by ships are the largest international multimodal transport operators especially when their origins are measured in terms of the numbers, types, models and sizes of ships.

There are operators who are not directly engaged in the carriage by sea. They arrange the transport from the location of the source of the shipment to the final destination using more than one means of transport. Instead of subcontracting with land and air transport operators, they only subcontract with maritime transport operators that is to say that they do not own or operate the vessels so that they do not manage or operate the maritime voyage. For this reason, they are known as multinational multimodal transport operators who are engaged only in maritime transport or as non-navigational carriers.

Furthermore, these companies prepare the full transport documents and assume the full responsibility for the transportation. They publish and advertise their shipping charges, but they do not operate any vessel. However, they sometimes rent spaces or cells from shipping lines or marine carriers at a commercial price and then sell them to the shipper at the market price. Thus, they profit from the price difference between the two prices.

Thus, we can conclude that there is an integral relationship among the parties of the international trade movement, represented in the exporting and importing companies, especially those in the economic zones, the international multimodal transport operators, and the commercial sea ports. There is no doubt that the work of each of these parties in harmony with the needs of the other parties will result in the success of the system as a whole and the success of each of its parties performing in the role assigned to it.

Duqm Quarries

gains the right to manage and operate the quarrying and mines sector in the Economic Zone



Soil survey at a site in which the Duqm Quarries Company operates

Ali Alzadjali: establishment of the company aims to regulate the quarrying sector and strengthen control and supervision of the sector activities

The new company is responsible for the management and operation of the quarrying and mining sector and the management of sand and gravel mines

Duqm - :

Duqm quarries have acquired the right to manage and operate the quarrying and mining sector in Duqm Economic Zone.

Eng. Ali Bin Abdullah Al Zadjali, General Manager of the company, said that the Duqm Quarries Company, which was established in 2017, is a closed joint stock company in which Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm owns 70% of its shares. The rest shares are distributed to a number of other companies, the most prominent of which is Duqm Ahlia which is owned by the people of Willayat of Duqm.

He stressed that the establishment of the company aims to regulate the quarry sector in the Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm, preserve this national wealth and strengthen control and supervision of activities related to the sector and its employment to serve the national economy. He pointed out that the zone is currently witnessing many infrastructure projects that require the provision of raw materials for construction and landfill.

Regarding the works to be done by the Duqm Quarries Company during the coming period, Ali bin Abdullah Al-Zadjali said that the new company will be responsible for the management and operation of the quarry and mining sector, the management of the sand and

gravel mines. It will perform other activities related to the exploitation of quarries for the extraction of stones, sand and fill materials. The activities of the company include investment management in this sector and management of mining and quarrying contracts and other related activities.



Ali Al Zadjali



Signing MOU with Oman Portuguese Cement Products LLC (OPCP)

Signing Agreements and MOU

In order to achieve its objectives, Duqm Quarrying Company signed four agreements in the field of supply of fill and rock materials. Six memorandums of understanding were signed with companies specialized in manufacturing precast concrete and cement factories in the Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm.

The agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed on behalf of Duqm Quarries Company engineer, Ali bin Abdullah Al-Zadjali, the general manager of the company. The agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed by the investment companies and their executives.

Signing these agreements comes within the objectives of the company to provide the necessary raw materials for the projects that are implemented in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, contribute to the expansion of production processes in the region and regulate the exploitation of this wealth in the region.

In accordance with the signed agreements, Circa Tahout Company obtained fill quantities of about 370 thousand cubic meters. Galfar Engineering and Contracting Company ob-

tained one million cubic meters of rock materials. Khalid Bin Ahmed & Sons LLC got two million cubic meters of fill materials and one million cubic meters of rock materials.

The agreements signed in December 2017 stipulate the provision of raw materials from sand and quarrying by five companies operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and the provision of raw materials of limestone, sand and iron components to one of the cement factories in the zone.

The mining sector is one of the five main sectors on which the Sultanate focuses in the current five-year plan to support the national economy in addition to sectors such as manufacturing industries, tourism, fisheries, transport and logistics.

Special Economic Zone at Al Duqm is rich of many mineral and rock resources that contribute to its proper utilization and provide many opportunities for domestic and foreign investment. Ali Bin Abdullah Al Zadjali said that Duqm is rich in limestone, which is used in many industries such as dyes, fertilizers, medicines, cleaning products, glass and plastic.

The zone enjoys many mineral wealth and its proper exploitation provides many investment opportunities



Producing fine sand from the first production line of OPCP to feed the ready mix concrete plants

FRIENDS OF OMAN GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VISITS SEZD



During visual presentations

Head of delegation impressed by Duqm growth

Visit aims to strengthen relations and economic cooperation between Oman and European Parliament

Duqm - :

Friends of Oman Group in the European Parliament, headed by H.E. Ramona Nicole Manescu, visited the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) on 19-20 December 2017 to see the projects implemented and the investment opportunities available there.

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chairperson of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) said that SEZAD offers many facilities to investors pointing out at the same time SEZD geographical location and the local and international status it has achieved since its establishment late 2011.

During his meeting with H.E. Ramona Nicole Manescu and the delegation accompanying her, Al-Jabri indicated

that SEZD includes a number of diverse investment areas, which offer many options for companies wishing to diversify their investments.

For her part, Ramona Nicole Manescu expressed her admiration of the Sultanate's efforts in economic diversification and the growth seen in SEZD in particular.

SEZAD provided a visual presentation on SEZD, its geographical location, investment opportunities available in it and the projects under implementation. Oman Oil Company, Oman Dry Dock Company, Duqm Port Company and Wanfang Oman provided visual presentations on their respective projects in SEZD.

During the visit, Ramona Nicole Manescu and her delegation were briefed on a number of projects in SEZD, such



Commemorative photo in front of the service compound building at Duqm Police Station



Ramona writes in the dry dock guestbook

as dry dock for ship repair, Duqm Port, Renaissance Village, Duqm Police Compound, and industrial, tourist, logistic and other areas.

The visit of Friends of Oman Group in the European Parliament is part of the Sultanate's efforts to strengthen existing relations and economic cooperation with the European Parliament and exchange views and views on regional and international issues and matters of common concern.

H.E. Ramona Nicole Manescu was accompanied by Dr. Badriya bint Ibrahim Al-Shihy, member of State Council, H.E. Amb. Najim bin Sulaiman Al-Abri, Sultanate's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and to the European Union, and a number of officials from State Council and SEZAD.



Head of Friends of Oman Group listens to an explanation of dry dock potentials in Duqm



Ramona listens to an explanation of ROP services

EU trade advisors visit SEZD



During displaying the visual presentations

Duqm - :

A number of trade advisors in the embassies of the EU member states, headed by H.E. Michel Sértoni, Head of the EU Delegation in Riyadh, visited the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) for two days to view the investment opportunities and incentives available to investors and businesspeople there.

The delegation was received by H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD).

During his meeting with the delegation, Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Deputy CEO of SEZAD, indicated that SEZAD provides many facilities for investors and businesspeople, including facilitating the registration of projects, granting the necessary permits and licenses and providing many incentives to encourage investment. He pointed out that SEZD includes a number of diverse investment areas, which offer many options for companies wishing to diversify their investments.

For his part, Gerrard Lacknier, Austrian economic and trade advisor, expressed his admiration for the urban revival in Duqm and praised SEZAD efforts in developing SEZD and making it an engine to diversify the Omani economy, praising the economic growth and development of public services and utilities there. He also commended the expeditious services provided by the one-stop shop under one roof.

The visit included talks and presentations on SEZD offered by Oman Oil Company, Oman Dry Dock Company, Duqm Port and Wanfang Oman Company to highlight the projects in SEZD.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on a number of projects in SEZD, such as the Dry Dock, Duqm Port, Renaissance Village, Duqm Police Complex, industrial, tourism and logistic areas, SEZAD headquarters, and the rock park.

The visit of the trade advisers in the embassies of EU member states took place in coordination with the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Sultanate's efforts to strengthen relations and economic cooperation with the European Union.



Commercial Advisors during their Visit to Duqm Port

We are expanding our business in Duqm and developing the logistics sector in Oman



Interviewed by Saleh bin Nabhan Al-Mamari:

Tariq Al-Junaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Shipping Company, said that the company is expanding its business in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD), pointing out that Duqm is on the aggressive growth trajectory and we see abundance of maritime transport opportunities to and from Duqm in the foreseeable future with a modest beginning already taken place.

In an interview with Duqm Economist, Al-Junaidi stated, «In addition to our growing global maritime transportation services in Oil, Gas, Petrochemicals and dry bulk commodities, we are providing container Feeder services transporting containers between the Ports of Sultanate and UAE Ports. Through the OEX service, we are able to connect Duqm Port to a number of ports in the Sultanate and in the region in a route from Jebel Ali Port in Dubai to Sohar Port, then to Duqm Port and finally to Salalah Port. This service which is offered once in every two weeks, is witnessing a good demand, carrying increasing number of containerized cargoes to Duqm Port in each cycle of a fortnight, from the initial 20 containers per sailing in 2016 at the time of launching the service to 50 containers currently (ie100 containers per month).





He explained that the increased demand for this shipping service to Duqm Port has encouraged the company to sign an agreement with CMA CGM Group, one of the leading international container operators, for marine transportation of their containers to many of the vital projects in SEZD. «We plan to make this feeder service weekly in the coming period, thereby providing better and quicker movements of different materials to SEZD,» added Al-Junaidi.

Repairs and Maintenance of company's fleet

«We are currently conducting repairs and maintenance of the company's entire fleet requirement at 'Oman Dry Dock Company' in Duqm. In 2016 we drydocked 10 vessels at Duqm, while in 2017 the number of vessels drydocked at Duqm has increased to 11. Further, we plan to drydock about six vessels in 2018. With every vessel being drydocked at Duqm, we are saving a foreign

exchange outgo of abt USD 400-500,000 at least and thereby adding to the "In Country Value" in our working. Our prime objective is to support the local companies to the maximum extent possible, however at the same time we can't afford to lose out in the fiercely competitive international market ,» stated Tarik Al-Junaidi, praising the services provided by 'Oman Dry Dock Company' by way of high-quality services rendered and also expeditiously , with a repair and drydock period not exceeding about 20 days on an average for each vessel.

Transport of minerals and aggregates


As for the services that Oman Shipping Company intends to provide during the coming period at Duqm , Tariq Al-Junaidi said that the company aspires to provide shipping services for export of minerals and aggregates to the world out of Duqm




Linking Duqm Port with a number of ports of the Sultanate and the region through a regular fortnightly container shipping service called 'Oman Express Service' (OEX)

We seek to cover the growing demand for our services from the vital projects in Duqm




Handling 100 containers per month in the OEX Service covering Duqm Port and we are dedicatedly working to double this number


Drydocking and repairs of the entire fleet requirement is carried out at 'Oman Dry Dock Company' in Duqm


Looking forward to providing shipping transport services to international customers for minerals, aggregates and other bulk cargoes through Duqm Port

Port, replicating Oman Shipping Company's experience from many Arabian Gulf ports including Salalah in such transportation. «SEZAD has limestone, silica, basalt and natural salt deposits. These deposits are available in commercial quantities and can be extracted, processed and exported from Duqm Port,» noted Al-Junaidi.

Supporting economic growth

Al-Junaidi reviewed the efforts of Oman Shipping Company in supporting the economic growth in SEZD. «We achieve this through maritime transportation of goods to various projects and investments in SEZD.

The company's well diversified fleet is providing seaborne transportation of various goods from many markets around the world to Duqm Port. Many companies and projects, such as the Sebacic Oman Refinery are benefited from our services for movement of their project cargoes.

It is worth noting that Oman Shipping Company is a closed company in which the Omani Government contributes 80% of its shares managed by Asyad Group and Oman Oil Company 20%. The company has a fleet of 49 vessels operating in the fields of transporting gas, crude oil, petrochemicals, bulk cargoes and containers.



Muscat
February 27th

The Educational Council approves the establishment of a college that serves economic activities at Duqm



Duqm,
January 24th

Economic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Shura Council visits SEZAD.



Duqm
January 30th

70 media men participate in the Reporter Forum Duqm



Duqm
March 20th

Representatives of the local English-language media during briefed on the projects being witnessed by Duqm



Muscat
March 8th

SEZAD and Petroleum Development Oman sign a MOU to train job seekers



Muscat
April 10th

Signing partnership agreements between Oman Oil Company S.A.O.C. (OOC) and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) to develop Duqm Refinery & Petrochemical Complex



Duqm – June 20th

Al Jazeera Channel made several reports on SEZAD



Duqm April 19th

Celebrating the laying of the foundation stone of the Sino-Oman Industrial City



Prague (Czech Republic) – May 2nd

Reviewing the investment opportunities in the SEZAD available for the Czech companies



Muscat August 30th

Signing the agreement for the construction of the dock of liquid and bulk materials at the port of Duqm



Muscat July 5th

Signing usufruct agreement for the construction of the oil storage terminal at Ras Markaz



Yinchuan (China) - September 7th

SEZAD participates in the China-Arab States Expo



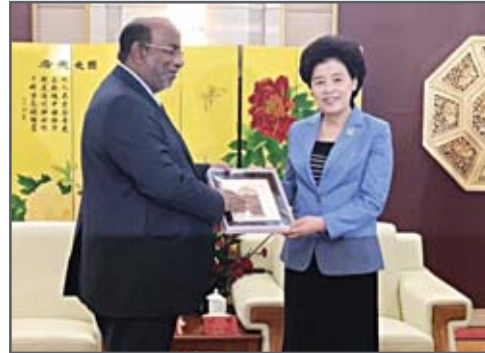
**Sharm El Sheikh -
September 17th**

SEZAD
receives the
gold medal
for social
responsibility



**Yinchuan (China)
- September 9th**

Governor of
Ningxia Region
expressed
gratitude to the
Sultanate for
its facilitation
of localization
of Chinese
investments

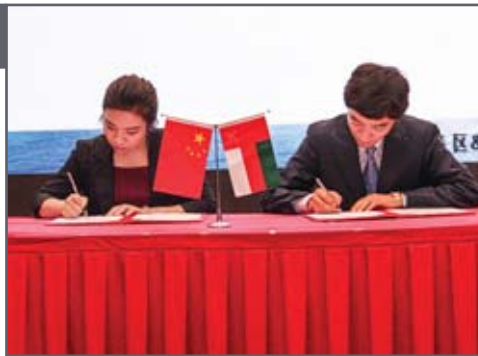


**Delhi (India)
September 30th**

Duqm
Development
Company
signs mem-
orandum of
understand-
ing with
Adani Ports

**Shanghai (China)
September 12th**

Signing a
memorandum
of
understanding
with the
Federation of
Petrochemical
Industries to
attract Chinese
investments



**Mumbai (India) -
September 25th**

SEZAD
organizes a
promotional
campaign in
India



**Cairo,
December 12th**

The Editor-in-
Chief presents a
copy of the tenth
issue of the
Duqm Economic
Magazine to
Mr. Makram
Mohamed
Ahmed,
Chairman of
the Supreme
Council of
Media in Egypt



**Mohammed bin
Ahmed Al-Shezawi**
Editor-in-chief



Duqm is witnessing rapid economic growth and continuous urban development since the start of its development and turning it into a large industrial and economic center,

mohammed.alshezawi@duqm.gov.om

Duqm is Changing

(1)

Since early morning, the city of Duqm awakens by the voices of workers heading to work in an open workshop covering an area of 2000 square kilometers aimed at building an integrated economic city in its services and providing its residents with everything they look forward to.

(2)

As the construction and development continues, the roar of trucks – while moving from site to site carrying the cargoes needed by new projects - has become a familiar scene in the Duqm.

(3)

Several years ago, when we went to visit the projects and see what is being done, it does not take much for us. We go to the port of Duqm, the dry dock and some main roads, but today it is quite different. We cannot visit Duqm projects without visiting Duqm Refinery, Sebacic Refinery, Fisheries Harbor and location of the oil storage terminal at Ras Markaz, about 80 km far from the center of Duqm and the new subways linking the various parts of the Duqm to many plants, SMEs, commercial buildings and residential buildings that are built in the Duqm.

(4)

Not only that, but also the port of Duqm itself is witnessing the implementation of 4 new projects in preparation for the stage of full commercial operation, and exporting oil products. In order to visit these projects, you need a full day being in different locations of the port.

(5)

Duqm is witnessing rapid economic growth and continuous urban development since the start of its development and turning it into a large industrial and economic center. The meetings that we publish in this issue with the workers in economic projects, who have witnessed this transformation through their work in the Duqm since 2008, indicate part of the story Duqm currently experiences.

(6)

The transformation Duqm witnessed since 2008 to date has not been limited to one or a few aspects, but has included everything.

Today, we have an airport, a multi-purpose port, high-end hotels and double roads, and many important projects are being carried out in industry, tourism, trade, logistics and other sectors.

(7)

The Royal Decree No. (85/2006) on designating the general utility of the development of the city of Duqm was the first line in the modern history of Duqm, and year after year, the youth of Oman and thousands of workers from different countries of the world write new chapters in the history of this city witnessing bright morning every day.