



A Quarterly magazine issued by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm
2nd Issue - October 2015

الدقم
الاقتصادية
Duqm
Economist



Al-Jabri: We welcome
Iranian investments in Duqm



Implementation of 92 Projects in
basic structure sector at SEZD



Duqm is making its way
towards an exceptional growth

Duqm:

a large-scale workshop
on 800 square kilometers





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SEZAD: Four Years after Establishment

The second issue of Duqm Economist coincides with the celebrations of the fourth year after the establishment of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) pursuant to Royal Decree (119/2011) dated 26 October 2011. This issue also falls on the celebrations by the Sultanate of the glorious forty-fifth National Day. Both occasions mean a lot for SEZAD. The glorious forty-fifth National Day confirms the magnitude of the achievements by the Sultanate under the patronage of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - may Allah protect him – in the various economic, social and cultural life aspects in the country.

SEZAD establishment is another manifestation of the interest of His Majesty the Sultan in national economy, distribution of the fruits of development to the various governorates of the Sultanate, attention to the comparative advantages of each governorate and taking advantage of the geographical location of the country in strengthening the capabilities and capacities of our national economy.

During the past four years, SEZAD has been working towards placing the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) within local and global investors' domain of interest. The fierce competition in this sector is no secret given the rising number of economic and free zones around the world, the increasing number of projects implemented there and the diversity of the incentives and facilities they offer. Over the past years, SEZAD has been sparing no effort to make SEZD attractive to investors through the incentives and facilities that keep pace with their aspirations following the prevalent model in many economic zones around the world. SEZAD has also promoted SEZD locally and abroad through holding many meetings with local and international companies to familiarize them with SEZD, investment opportunities available and projects executed therein. At the same time, the investment environment was organized and legislations have been issued to this end. In the same vein, SEZAD also signed a number of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the governmental units to organize work and avoid any problems that may face SEZD investors or residents.

Moreover, SEZAD accorded top priority to expediting the completion of basic structure project. The visitor to Duqm today would be surprised of the scope of change therein compared to the situation four years ago as the government and the private sector implemented many projects while many other projects are still in the pipeline, in either design or tendering stage.

Our ambitions at SEZAD have no limits, and we are proceeding, with the Grace of Almighty, and the directives of the government towards achieving the objectives of the Sultanate from establishment of SEZD to be a value addition to our national economy under the patronage of His Majesty the Sultan. I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Majesty - may God protect him – while conveying my congratulations for the Sultanate's achievements in various fields. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues in SEZAD who work towards achieving the objectives of the Sultanate from establishment of SEZD and seek to be part of the unfolding real story of success of Duqm, despite the challenges.



Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



During the past four years, SEZAD has been working towards placing the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) within local and global investors' domain of interest.

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We are set to be the first major industrial project of the new Special Economic Zone and aim to serve as the springboard for Duqm's planned transformation into one of the largest industrial and economic hubs in the region.

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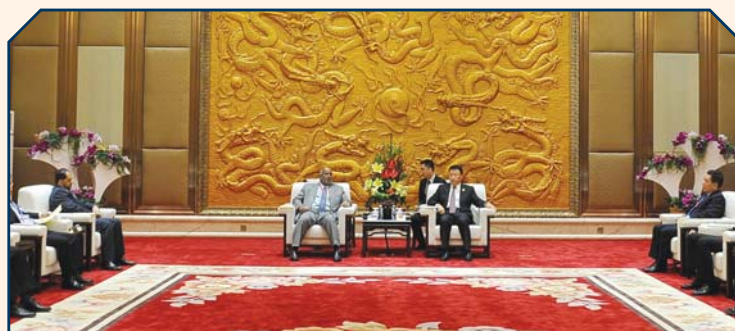
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The magazine welcomes
specialized research and
academic studies

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“Duqm Invites You” lands in Tehran

Bilateral meetings explore opportunities for cooperation and highlight the incentives and facilities offered to investors



Al-Jabri:
We welcome Iranian investments in Duqm and look forward to the two countries' taking advantage of the geographical proximity and historical commonalities



Khansari:
The Sultanate and Iran possess the elements of cooperation and we must improve the economic relations to the level of political relations

Tehran -  :

During the period from 27 September to 1 October 2015, the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) organized a promotional campaign under the theme (Duqm Invites You) in the Iranian capital Tehran with the participation of a number of government agencies and companies operating and investing in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chairman, commended the good relations between the Sultanate and Iran. In a speech delivered at a seminar held in Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Al-Jabri stated:

“The relationship between our countries as strategic partners has received a good attention from the public and private sectors in recent years. This interest would enhance

our existing relationships as we look forward that our two peoples would take advantage of the geographical proximity and historical commonalities through the implementation of projects that would realize these objectives, help increase trade volumes and contribute to the prosperity of trade and investment.”

Al-Jabri noted the efforts of the Sultanate and Iran to promote trade exchange and promote trade and investment movement. He stressed at the same time that the Zone welcomes Iranian investments and provides support and assistance they may need.

He explained the Sultanate's efforts under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah protect him, to build a strong and stable economy. He elaborated that

“Sultanate of Oman has achieved growth rates that



Opening session of the symposium

boosted its economic position among the countries of the region. The past few years have witnessed the implementation of a variety of basic structure projects. The Sultanate has worked towards taking advantage of its geographical position in the construction of a variety of ports along the coast of Oman. It has also worked to take advantage of crude oil and natural gas in the construction of refineries and a number of petrochemical and heavy industry projects. The Sultanate exerts steady efforts to diversify its sources of national income and encourage the establishment of a strong and prosperous private sector. The Sultanate also focuses on providing the appropriate environment to attract various investments. During the past years, it has exerted great efforts in the development of foreign investment legislative framework to provide the chance to the companies to achieve good returns on their investments."

H.E. Al-Jabri touched upon the incentives and facilities offered to investors in the Zone and said:

"The Special Economic Zone at Duqm is the largest economic zone in the Middle East with an area of up to (1745) square kilometers. The Sultanate established it recently as a part of its orientation towards diversifying the sources of national income away from reliance on oil as a major source of income. We have been keen that the Zone would be variegated in its projects and investments. For this, it has eight sub-zones that provide many options for investors. Duqm Port, commissioned in 2013, is a multi-purpose port and has the potentials to accommodate industrial activities related to oil and gas and petrochemicals and the activities of import, export and re-export."

SEZAD Chairman also confirmed the efforts of Oman Drydock Company in attracting many international compa-



Sultanate's Ambassador to Tehran:
We invite businesspeople to learn about the investment climate and opportunities in Duqm



During presentations



A number of attendees

nies to take advantage of ship repair services provided by the company.

He pointed out the investment opportunities available in many other sectors and the incentives and facilities SEZAD offers for investors, stressing that SEZAD has tried to make the incentives, privileges and facilities offered to investors encouraging and in keeping with their aspirations.

Strengthening Economic Ties

For his part, H.E. Masoud Khansari, President of Tehran Chamber of Commerce stressed the importance for the two countries to strengthen their trade relations. In his statement during the seminar, he stated that

“The trade exchange between the two countries does not rise to the level of their political relations. This makes it imperative for all of us to work to strengthen economic relations and upgrade them to the level of our political relations. The two countries possess many of the elements of the cooperation in various economic fields in addition to the geographical proximity.”

He pointed out that the recent period witnessed further trade cooperation between the two countries and that there is a direct flight linking Tehran and Muscat. He asserted that these factors help businesspeople in both countries to promote their trade and economic relations, noting that the mutual visits of economic delegations provide a good

platform for businesspeople to meet and review possible areas of cooperation and partnerships among themselves.

Familiarization with Investment Climate in Oman

In the same vein, H.E. Ambassador Saud bin Ahmed Al-Barwani, Sultanate's ambassador to Tehran, invited Iranian businesspeople to familiarize themselves with the investment climate in the Sultanate and the investment opportunities available in Duqm Special Economic Zone. Al-Barwani pointed out that the Zone system includes many encouraging privileges, such as allowing foreign ownership of 100%, tax exemptions for up to renewable 30 calendar years, and other incentives, in addition to the strategic location of the Sultanate and the geographical proximity between the two countries.

Visual Presentations

The promotional campaign included a number of presentation by the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa), the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Oman Drydock Company, Duqm Port Company, Oman Oil Company, Takamul Investment Company, and Central Utilities Company. There were also many bilateral meetings between representatives of the participating entities involved and Iranian businesspeople.



Bilateral meetings

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- Most Modern & High Quality Facilities.
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GRAVING DOCK		
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Quay	2800 m	
Jib Crane	14 sets	





Meeting with the Advisor of the Iranian President for Free Zones

Iranian President Advisor for Free Zones Receives Yahya Al Jabri

Review of areas of cooperation with the Iranian free zones and shipping lines

Tehran :

H.E. Akbar Torkan, Iranian president's advisor for free zones, received in his office in Tehran H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chairperson of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) and his accompanying delegation as part of the promotional campaign (Duqm Invites You). SEZAD organized this campaign with the participation of a number of government agencies and companies operating and investing in the Zone.

During the meeting, they discussed means of cooperation between the Sultanate and Iran in many areas related to the free zones.

Al-Jabri provided Torkan with an overview of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) with its geographical location and the incentives and facilities it offers for investors. SEZAD Chairperson touched upon the projects in the pipeline in the Zone and the focus sectors.

For his part, H.E. the Iranian president's advisor for free zones, indicated the characteristics of four free

zones in Iran, namely Chabahar, Qeshm, and Bushehr and Arvand. He pointed out that these zones offer many privileges and incentives for investors and feature a variety of heavy and petrochemical industries.

The meeting included putting forward many ideas for cooperation between the Special Economic Zone in Duqm and Iranian free zones, including cooperation in marketing. H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri invited to H.E. Akbar Torkan to visit the Special Economic Zone in Duqm to get a firsthand experience of the characteristics of the Zone and projects implemented in it.

On the other hand, H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri and his accompanying delegation met with H.E. Mohammad Saeedi, Managing Director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL). During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two sides. H.E. Al-Jabri asserted that the Special Economic Zone in Duqm has a high ability to provide the services IRISL needs, especially in the area of ship repair services.

H.E. Mohammad Saeedi expressed the desire of IRISL to cooperate with Duqm Port and the dry dock.



Iranian and Omani delegations during the meeting



Revision with the latest cars manufactured in the company

With investments worth USD 200 million

IKCO intends to establish a factory in Duqm

Tehran :

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm and his accompanying delegation paid a visit to Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) factory, the largest car production factory in the Middle East. This was a part of the promotional campaign (Duqm Invites You) organized by SEZAD from 27 September to 1 October 2015.

H.E. was briefed on the company's capabilities, types of cars produced, production lines, manufacturing stages, motor production methods and other stages and operations related to the car production.

During the meeting, IKCO officials touched upon the steps completed within its efforts to establish a car assembly plant in the Special Economic Zone Duqm (SEZD) in partnership with the Oman Investment Fund. They pointed out that they had already agreed on several steps for the establishment of the plant noting that SEZAD has allocated land for the factory. There remains the signing of the partnership agreement between the company and Oman Investment Fund. The expected investment for the said plant in Duqm shall be about US\$ 200 million.

H.E. Al-Jabri confirmed that SEZAD would provide all

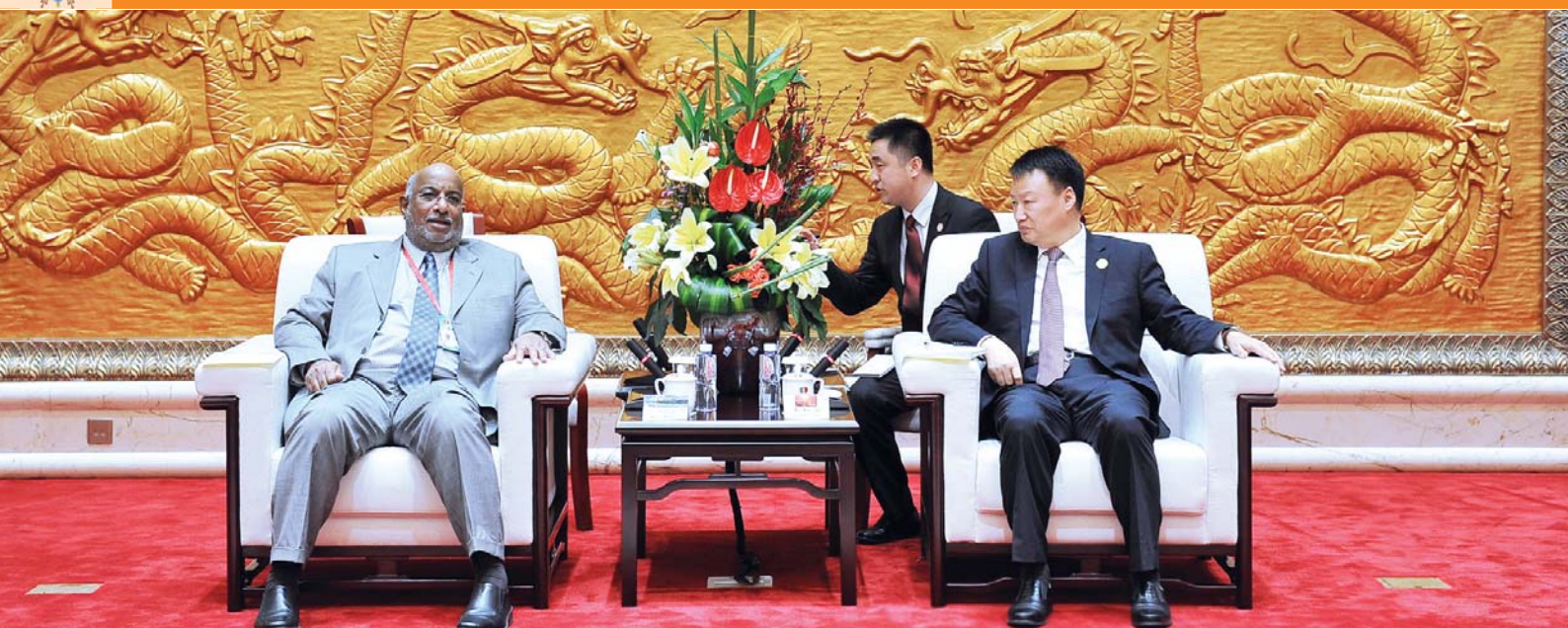
the facilities IKCO may need for the establishment of the plant in the Zone, stressing that this plant would have many economic benefits for the Omani and Iranian sides.

Iranian officials said they want to establish a number of other projects in the Sultanate in partnership with local investors, pointing out that the car assembly plant targets access to the markets of Asia and Africa as the Zone is close to them.

IKCO owns seven plants for car production around the world. In its plant in Tehran, it uses modern techniques and robots as well as thousands of workers. Its annual output is one million cars a year and looks forward to increase its production to reach three million cars a year over the next ten years.

H.E. Al-Jabri expressed his admiration of the developments of the automotive industry in Iran, pointing out that the relationship between the Sultanate and Iran is strong, and that both sides seek to strengthen economic relations to the level of political relations. He welcomed the establishment of the car assembly plant in the Zone and the various Iranian investments, stressing that the Zone is an ideal place to establish this factory due to its proximity to Asia and Africa markets, the presence of Duqm Port and many facilities and incentives provided by SEZAD to investors.






Duqm Attracts Chinese Investors

Agreement in principle for the allocation of lands to 16 investment projects

Vice-Governor of Ningxia Region:
We have a package of projects to create in the Zone and we have allocated the funds for them

Yinchuan :

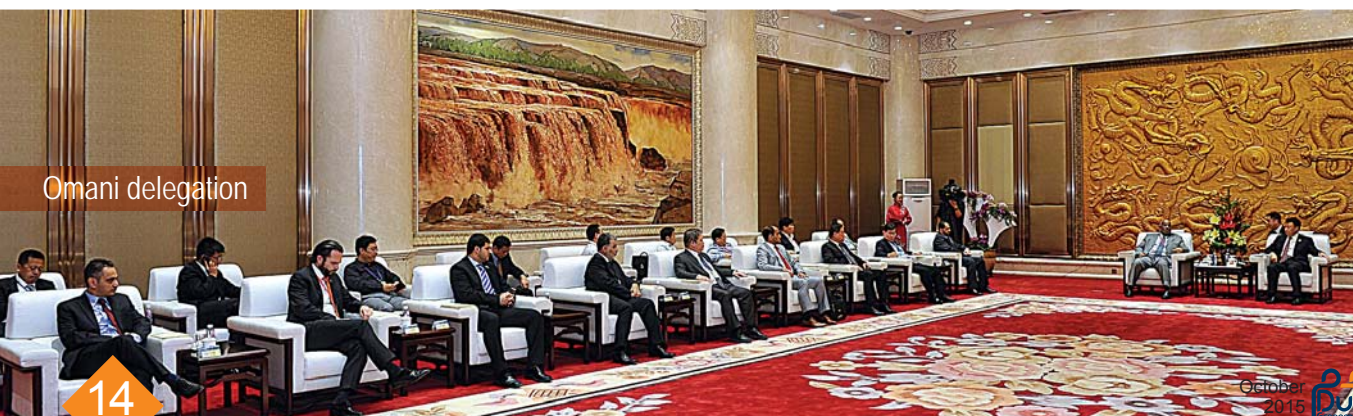
Several Chinese companies expressed their willingness to invest in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD). H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chairperson of Board of Directors of Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm (SEZAD) to the autonomous Ningxia Region in the People's Republic of China, he agreed in principle on the allocation of land for 16 projects Chinese companies would execute in the Zone. The visit was from 10 to 13 September 2015.

Al-Jabri signed an MOU in principle with the Vice-Governor of Ningxia Region. It provides for the initial agreement on the allocation of land for projects that the Chinese parties expressed their desire to set up in Duqm. During the meeting attended by the Omani delegation of officials from SEZAD, the Public Authority for the Promotion Investment and Export Development, Oman Investment Fund, Duqm Port Company, Oman Drydock Company and Takamul Company, Al-Jabri confirmed that there are many incentives and facilities enjoyed by investors in the Zone. He also stressed the unique location of the Zone on

the Arabian Sea. For his part, the Vice-Governor of Ningxia Region asserted that the Chinese side has a package of projects to execute in the Zone and have allocated funds for the implementation of these projects especially in light of delegating a local government official to follow up their implementation in coordination with SEZAD competent officials.

The meeting was a part of SEZAD participation in China-Arab States Expo held in the city of Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Region from 10 to Sep 13 September 2015 under the theme "Spread Silk Road Spirit, Deepen China-Arab Cooperation". King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, inaugurated the Expo, as Jordan was the guest of honor for the second session of the Expo.

During the visit, SEZAD provided visual presentations to the major Chinese businesspeople at the headquarters of the local government. They expressed their interest in investing in the Zone. In cooperation with the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development "Ithraa", SEZAD participated by a special pavilion in the Expo to inform visitors about the investment climate and opportunities in the Sultanate.



Omani delegation



الدقم Duqm

هيئة المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة
Special Economic Zone Authority

Sultanate of Oman

سلطنة عُمان



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Speakers at the symposium

The Special Economic Zone Re-Extends its Invitation to the Local Private Sector to Invest in Duqm

Ismail Al-Balushi:
Projects are all aiming at supporting the economic diversification plan, and employment opportunities to young Omanis

Salalah 

Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority renewed its invitation to the local private sector to invest in the zone, asserting the availability of plenty of investment opportunities and a package of incentives, facilities and benefits to favorably encourage investors.

Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority held a seminar at the headquarters of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry branch at Dhofar that was a part of a series of local seminars and events organized and inaugurated by Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority since the beginning of this year for the purpose of informing the local private sector about the investment opportunities available at the free zone.

Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority's Vice Chief Executive Officer; Ismail Bin Ahmed Al-Balushi stated that in the free zone

such as the Duqm port, the dry dock, the refinery, the airport, heavy petrochemicals industrial projects, warehouses, logistical services and tourism projects are all aiming at supporting the economic diversification plan, and these project will provide promising investment opportunities to the local private sector, small and mid-sized enterprises "SME", as well as, promising employment opportunities to young Omanis.

Al-Balushi added during his speech the seminar that Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority seeks to attract investments in the Sultanate of Oman, pointing out that the authority endeavored that the incentives and benefits package offered to investors are up to if not far beyond the investors' expectations. He added Royal Decree No. 79/2013 promulgating Duqm Special Economic Zone Law stipulates a package of facilities and benefits that meets investors' expectations and ambitions and boosts the zone's competitiveness threshold.

He further noted Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority has created the One Stop Shop with the aim of availing the best level of services for investors, adding that such services include the issue of commercial registrations, the zone's lands usufructuary licenses, the registration of usufruct contracts, the issuance of municipal licenses and environmental permits, and other permits including without limitation industrial, tourism and mining licenses in addition to a host of other services.

The seminar featured two presentations, the first was delivered by Director of the Labor License and Investors Visas Department; Sultan Al Shraiqi which covered investment opportunities availed and offered by the free zone.

The second presentation was delivered by Engineer Hussain Al Zadjali in his capacity as the Buildings Projects Officer and which covered the projects underway at the free zone.





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Suez and Duqm

In an interview I conducted years ago with Professor Paul Kennedy, the author of the famous *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers* he called the Egyptians to be alert as geography moves eastward. He meant that the center of gravity in maritime shipping movement - and activity - was heading east to Asia in spite of the critical importance of the location of Egypt in addition to the existence of the Suez Canal. Kennedy then referred to Singapore specifically to demonstrate that humans create the location. From that moment, I realized that the excellent location of this or that country is a godsend that could lose its value unless we optimally use the same and develop renewable mechanisms to generate the highest benefit from it.

The Egyptian colloquial saying goes "God helps those who help themselves," i.e. we must always move to get the reward of Providence for our effort; otherwise we should blame only ourselves. At the same, the timing and speed of the movement have become instrumental. Numerous states have been exerting efforts that would change the nature of the site and geography. They dig channels, move mountains and remove obstacles to establish paths none could imagine decades ago. It suffices here to refer here to the tremendous efforts by China to revive the ancient Silk Road, or injection of tens of billions of dollars to set up a canal that goes through "Nicaragua" and strongly influence the Panama Canal. We can also consider the news on the establishment of a canal from Qatar to the Arabian Sea, irrespective of the time this would materialize, and the attempts for a maritime line from the Arctic Ocean to China, Korea and East Asia. Therefore, all states should revisit their policies and arrangements according to the actions of the others to adapt, benefit, avoid the negative, and employ all that is new to serve their national objectives.

The change of "landscape" for many countries changes the rules of the economic game in terms of trade, transport and cross-border investment in general. This requires constant vigilance and tremendous flexibility to interact and form the appropriate reaction about every development.

The interest accorded to the Special Economic Zone "Duqm" in Al-Wusta Governorate, Sultanate of Oman and the tremendous progress therein coincides with the completion of the new branch of the Suez Canal. This would finalize the legislative and procedural basic structure to launch development in the biggest special economic zone in the Arab region, namely Suez Canal Special Economic Zone (more than 460 square kilometers).

Announced recently was the completion of the mas-

ter plan carried out by the "Engineering House - Shair and Partners" area of the Suez Canal Zone. Preparing detailed plans for projects is underway. The Zone relies on various pillars, notably to make the Suez Canal Axis an international "logistical" center and "hub" for the production of new and renewable energy and deliver a distinctive tourism, entertainment, service, educational and medical product. It aims also to establish integrated industrial parks with a view to advancing the three of canal "Ismailia, Port Said and Suez," as well as Sinai. The aims also include the establishment of an ICT valley or more precisely revive it as land had been allocated for the project in Ismailia 14 years ago without making any progress. There shall also be an agricultural hinterland and vast fish farms. Another aim is to change the equation of moving to and from Sinai radically through the establishment of six tunnels under the Suez Canal and the development of six ports, including the ports of El-Arish and Al-Tour, and upgrading East Port Said Port to be among the ten largest ports in the world for container handling. Revived shall also be the northwest Suez Bay Project, which was the first special economic zone in Egypt (established by Law 83 of 2002) but remained suffering mishaps with only a limited number of factories established. It has been integrated into the new Special Economic Zone.

While observing the well-thought progress in "Duqm", skill in managing the file, the deliberate and self-assured outlook behind the economic zone, and prudent selection of the location and activities, and taking all population and future considerations into account, I call to an agreement or "protocol" of fraternity between Duqm and Suez Canal zones. This would be the nucleus for the establishment of an Arab union or association of special economic zones, even within the scope of the Arab Union of Free Zones. Of course, the goal is to exchange experiences, coordinate work and study everything that would promote the integration of different activities. According to the language in currency now, "enlarging the pie" would achieve the highest return of the two zones.

Those who are insightful know that a project does not eliminate another. Singapore did not cancel its precedents and Dubai did not eliminate Singapore. Current ports have become economic cities in the full sense of the word; they are no longer just locations for passage and simple storage. Human imagination adds innovations each day in this area, and the merging of innovations can add value. I am confident that the cooperation between Suez and Duqm will be in favor of all special economic zones in the Arab world and all Arab ports.



CEO of SEZAD in an interview with  :

Duqm is making its way towards an exceptional growth

Duqm  :

"After it was just a quiet fishing village in Al-Wusta Governorate in Oman, Duqm has become today a major attraction for global investors thanks to the Government's vision to develop the area into a special economic zone."

Thus began Lee Chee Khian, CEO of the Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm (SEZAD) his interview with , stressing the government's keenness to establish a

modern world-class basic structure in this city, which began making its way towards cosmopolitanism.

"Duqm city can be termed as a smart city for the world class facilities here. Duqm today acts as a catalyst for urbanization and commercialization of the entire Al Wusta region. It has excellent basic structure and state-of-the-art technology, which will allow zone to grow into an increasingly significant part of the economic landscape for Oman. Its location is also extremely advantageous," added Khian





Many Potentials for the Port and Dry Dock

The CEO of SEZAD went on in his interview to provide an overview of the potentials of Duqm Port and Oman Drydock Company, pointing out that the Oman Drydock Company was established to develop and diversify heavy industries in Oman. It also has slop tanks to store 10,000 cubic meters. In addition, we have five working shops – Pipe & Outfitting, Electric Shop, Machinery Shop, Hull Shop, Blasting & Painting Shop and Cryogenic Shop – all facilitated with modern and high tech materials. The company's vast area is also ready to serve, not only ship repair and conversion but also fabrication of any kind of offshore structure in the Middle East area such as platform module, jacket and wellhead.

He elaborated that the basic structure of

Duqm Port is constructed according to top line basic structure technology with multipurpose handling facility. This entire basic structure will enable the port to receive world-class and new generation ships.

Many Industries

Highlighting the kinds of industries coming up in the zone, Lee said, "We have petrochemicals investors coming in, and water desalination investors as well, and investors are talking about commercial centers. We have people interested in education and tourism as well. We will need to start marketing the area, but before, we are developing the basic structure in place. At the same time, the stress is on the importance of logistics sector. Duqm's industrial facilities, port and airport will all be enhanced with improvements to the

We have investors in the fields of petrochemicals, water desalination and logistics

We seek to create jobs directly and indirectly to the people of Duqm in particular and Al-Wusta Governorate in general





**Promotion of
all industri-
al facilities,
Duqm Port
and Duqm
Airport and
improving
the main
road**

**Basic struc-
ture can
attract in-
vestments
and modern
technology**



main road connecting Duqm and the northern part of Oman. Basic structure such as buildings, roads, warehouses, electricity, water, and sewage are designed to be world-class in terms of operational capacity, productivity and stability.

"The capacity of the new airport here is about 500,000 passengers per year. The airport will accommodate both cargo and passenger traffic. Future development of the Duqm SEZ will benefit the planned rail network, which will connect Duqm to Muscat, and onwards to the UAE and other GCC nations, thereby creating a multimodal transport system in and around Duqm."

Private Sector Investments

About the private sector participation at the Duqm zone, Lee said that one important objective behind establishing SEZAD, was to maximize private sector participation at the zone. Several Omani companies are exploring joint venture opportunities in Duqm in the industrial, real estate and tourism development sectors, he said.

About employment opportunities for local populace, Lee said, "We are going to create direct and indirect jobs in Duqm. We will ensure that the companies working in the area will give opportunities to Omanis by training them".





Choo Teck Soon: Industrial Projects are the Locomotive of Various Businesses in the Zone

Duqm  :

Choo Teck Soon, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Oman Special Economic Zone Duqm Development Company (Duqm Development "Tatweer") that the projects implemented in the Zone will be a key driver for the various businesses in the Zone and will contribute to providing thousands of job opportunities for citizens.

"Duqm Development" is a subsidiary of the Special Economic Zone Duqm Authority (SEZAD) that manages the existing assets in the Zone on behalf of SEZAD, manage the construction of basic structure, preparing the land and attracting investors in all economic activities by focusing on marketing. The company is the executive arm of SEZAD.

Choo Teck Soon commented the accelerated activity in the Zone. "Duqm, that quiet coastal city in Al-Wusta Governorate has now become a fast-growing industrial area because of working on a wide range of basic structure projects that are going at a fast pace. Duqm, which was a simple fishing village, has become now the focus of modern international investors and provide a unique value for investors, thanks to its strategic location," indicated Choo Teck Soon.

Multiple Possibilities

He noted the vast area of the Zone of 1745 square kilometers, equivalent to two and a half times the size of Singapore. The Zone also features a coast length of 70 kilometers to be the largest of its kind in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia and among the largest free zones in the world. He pointed out that the location of Duqm Port away from the Strait of Hormuz is one of the main advantages of the Zone.

"In addition, the proximity of Duqm to the




promising Asian market, the GCC countries, Iran, Iraq and East Africa, along with its strategic location, assert its industrial potential. The Zone has also ample oil and gas fields and enormous mineral deposits, making it the proper place for any investor. The industrial zone, which covers an area of 365 square kilometers and is located near the highway, port, airport and rail serve the projects of petrochemicals, building materials, metals, inorganic chemicals, fisheries and aquaculture, food processing, clean technology, life sciences and other related business," added Choo Teck Soon.

Advanced Basic structure

"Basic structure development, as a fundamental pillar, plays a very important role in determining the success of development in the Zone. The basic structure, such as buildings, roads, warehouses, electricity, water, and sanitation is designed to be world-class in terms of operational stability, productivity and capacity," stated Choo Teck Soon in the basic structure in the Zone.

He stressed that the government had done its best to provide excellent basic structure and advanced facilities. "In the long term, this will have a significant impact on the efforts to diversify the Omani economy in line with Oman Vision 2020," asserted Choo Teck Soon.

In his speech, he commended the potentials of the Zone for the growth of SMEs, stressing that the Zone offers many opportunities for SMEs.


Duqm has become the talk of global investors and its strategic location has strengthened its capacity to attract investments


Industrial projects and advanced basic structure support the Sultanate's efforts for economic diversification



SEZAD Projects Director: Implementation of **92** projects in basic structure sector at SEZD

 Duqm  :

Engineer Saleh bin Rashid Al-Hashmi, Projects Director, SEZAD, revealed that the basic structure projects in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm (SEZD) are about 92, including 41 already completed, 37 under construction and 14 in the pipeline: for determining the scope of work, tendering, preparation of documents or obtainment of final approvals.

Al-Hashmi indicated in an exclusive interview with that the projects under construction in SEZD aim to achieve the objectives of the Sultanate in term of economic diversification. He commended the government efforts in financing of basic structure projects in SEZD, including Duqm Port, the dry dock, Duqm Airport and roads, power, water, and tourism projects.

He pointed out that the offshore works of Duqm Port and its commercial dock are the most prominent basic structure projects completed in SEZD. This has enabled the Port to receive ships carrying equipment for the oil and gas sector and other sectors contributed to the reduction of their delivery time. "Moreover, the dry dock, officially inaugurated in 2012, is witnessing now many successes. Completed was also a number of packages for Duqm Airport and road sector," pointed Al-Hashmi while stressing the governmental initiatives to implement a number of projects in the tourism sector, notably Al-Madina Hotel and Crowne Plaza Duqm. "Both contribute to meeting the growing demand for hotel rooms by tourists, investors and visitors to SEZD. The private sector has also established Park Inn Hotel & Resort. The government has also invested in the construction of a water desalination plant of 6 thousand cubic meters per day to meet the needs of about 35 thousand people. It also completed a 67 MW power plant," elaborated SEZAD Projects Director.

Eng. Saleh Al-Hashmi provides
presentation to investors



Duqm at night

Projects under Construction

Regarding the projects under construction, Al-Hashmi noted that they include the establishment of 150 housing units for Duqm citizens, establishment of SEZAD headquarters, land leveling in the industrial, exhibition and tourism areas and duplication and development of Duqm main road. "Assigned has also been a number of projects, including implementation of the governmental dock at Duqm Port and the construction of a 180-hectare integrated waste disposal landfill for the various waste types, including the industrial ones," added Al-Hashmi.

He praised the objectives that SEZAD seeks to achieve, which include supporting government revenues, providing job opportunities for Omanis and development of Al-Wusta Governorate. "The projects under construction in SEZAD have achieved many goals so far, contributed to the revitalization of the commercial and tourist traffic in Duqm and provided many job opportunities for Omanis," explained Eng. Al-Hashmi.

"SEZAD is keen to provide an integrated basic structure that achieves the objectives of the Sultanate to make Duqm an international investment zone. Therefore, we are keen on the implementation of the projects according to international standards," said Al-Hashmi while commending SEZAD efforts in attracting the qualified engineers and technicians specialized in the various construction sectors to supervise the projects as per the best-approved specifications.

Multiple Projects

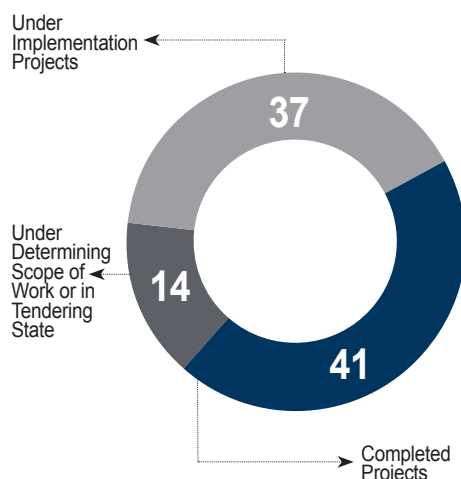
SEZAD Projects Director said that the basic structure projects currently undertaken by SEZAD include a number of packages for the Duqm Port, Duqm Airport, fishing port, fish industries complex, projects of roads, dams, and protection of SEZAD against surface water, and service facilities such as power, sewage and water plants. They also include community projects, such as entertainment centers, parks, sports fields, landscaping and social housing. They also include levelling the land in the industrial, tourism and logistics areas to make it ready for investment by international companies and local private sector.

Regarding the projects under implementation by state-owned companies and the local and foreign private sector, Al-Hashmi stated that the most prominent of these projects is Duqm refinery, which shall be the locomotive of heavy and petrochemical industries projects in SEZAD. The Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company awarded the tender for pavement of the refinery site so that it can build the refinery as scheduled in its action plan. The refinery, whose capacity is 230 thousand barrels per day, will contribute to the revitalization of construction in SEZAD.

"During the past two years, SEZAD signed a number of land usufruct agreements with investors from the Sultanate and abroad and they are now implementing their projects or developing their engineering designs. After the implementation of these projects, Duqm will become a modern city and a preferable destination for leisure and business for Omanis and foreigners," stressed Al-Hashmi.

"The projects that the private sector will implement during the coming period shall not be limited to only the industrial sector, but also include trade, tourism, leisure, sports and logistics sectors. They would contribute to achieving the aspirations of the inhabitants of the new Duqm city expected to be about 67 thousand people by 2020," concluded SEZAD Projects Director.

Number of Projects at the Special Economic Zone of Duqm (SEZD) as of September 2015*



*They do not include the projects of the Ninth Five-Year Plan (2016-2020)

Provision of integrated basic structure renders Duqm a global investment Zone

Implemented projects revitalize economic activity and keep up with the demand for hotel services



Duqm:

a large-scale workshop on 800 square kilometers

Duqm - Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi:

When I arrived at Duqm Airport, it was approaching three on a sunny September day. It was fantastic and temperatures were moderate. On the dual three-lane road from Duqm Airport to the port, you see many projects that began to emerge as the first building blocks of economic projects that write the new future for Duqm. This city tempts you to stay therein day after day to enjoy its moderate climate in summer and winter and fresh air breezes when the sun approaches sunset and outdoor night chatting sittings commence.

On the next day, I toured the Zone and visited several projects. I also visited some of the banks that have opened in the past few months. They changed Duqm dramatically and formed the backbone of economic development of the Wilayat, which is witnessing writing its new history.

From Duqm Airport to tourist projects passing by residential, commercial, industrial and logistics areas before arriving to Duqm Port, dry dock and the refinery, you see thousands of workers that race to complete dozens of projects overseen by the Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm (SEZAD) or private sector companies. Over an area stretching for about 800 square kilometers allocated for the current development, the area has turned into a big workshop where work continues in parts thereof, such as the contractors' permanent accommodation (CPA) around the clock. One shift follows another bearing in mind the schedule.





Establishment of a City with Full-fledged Services

SEZAD seeks to establish a city with full-fledged services able to meet the needs of its population on one hand, and the investors who head to it on the other to become the favorite city for work, residence and tourism as well. SEZAD is currently focusing on carrying out dozens of basic structure projects that will allow the Zone to achieve its objectives. In order for SEZAD to ensure the completion of projects in accordance with the government vision for the development of the Zone, it established Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Duqm Development Company) to oversee the projects implemented in the Zone.

During the current year, company staff shifted to the Wilayat of Duqm to be closer to the projects implemented and to supervise directly the basic structure projects carried out by SEZAD in a race against time to achieve the strategic objectives of the Sultanate.

This visit to Duqm was not the first. I visited it for the first time in 2008 when the establishment of Duqm Port began to be the first strategic project in the Wilayat. I visited it several times later and each time I found a distinctive flavor to this city with all its paradoxes.

Duqm Port

From Duqm Port, which faces the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, the development plan started. After its completion, it became a multi-purpose port and one of the largest ports in the region. Its potentials allow it to receive the largest ships in the world, deal with the various types of goods and provide the elements of success for heavy and petrochemical industries projects to be set up there.

Over the past years, completed were maritime works of the Port, such as wave breakers of a total length of 8.6 km, deepening of the harbor basin to 18 meters and the entrance channel to 19 meters, establishment of the 2.2 km commercial pier. Exploited was a part of the commercial pier to receive ships carrying various equipment for oil and gas companies and many major companies operating in Al-Wusta Governorate.

Today, SEZAD, through Duqm Development, is completing the remaining packages of the Port to be operational shortly after it has been partially operating recently. To know the Port and other basic structure projects, we had several meetings with the engineers working in Duqm Development Company.





A number of trucks at Duqm refinery levelling location



Engineer Qasim Al-Marhobi: floating the commercial dock pavement tender and awarding before the end of this year

Vital Projects

Engineer Qasim bin Mohammed Al-Marhobi, senior civil engineer and supervisor of Duqm Port projects, indicated that the basic structure project for the commercial wharf (second phase) is one of the most prominent projects at the Port and its awarding shall be by the end of this year. The project includes paving of the commercial wharf of 2.2 km long and up to 350 meters wide so that it can be ready for handling containers and has service buildings. The implementation period shall be up to 30 months, adding that the length of the main wave breaker, which has the commercial wharf is 4.1 km.

"There is also the (third phase) of the basic structure project of commercial wharf. It includes the construction of the main gates of the Port, the one-stop window and the inspection area, which consists of a customs building and another building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in addition to a hospital and a medical quarantine at the hospital. Awarded has been this project already and the company will begin its operations in the fourth quarter of this year," added Al-Marhobi

"In addition to the commercial quay, Duqm Port includes a government berth and another for liquid and bulk materials. Awarded has been the basic structure tender of the

government berth (fourth phase) of 980 meters long and up to 200 meters wide. Allocated shall the government berth to Royal Navy of Oman, Coast Guard, Sultan's Forces, Sultan's yachts, and fast ferries. Implementation would begin before the end of 2015. As for the liquid and bulk material quay, it is currently in preliminary design phase and award is expected for the detailed design and implementation of the first part of the quay of 2 km long and 350 meters wide in the first quarter of 2016. The length of the breakwater for this quay is 4.6 km and it will be used for the export of petroleum products, oil reservoirs fields and petroleum coke," explained Al-Marhobi

"Duqm Port projects also include consultancy services for the design and supervision of the implementation of the two roads (1) and (5) at the port, both of which are vital for the Port. Road (1) is the main road to the Port and consists of three lanes for each direction length of about 6 kilometers and a middle area that allows future expansion. It connects the main road from Muscat to Duqm with road (2) leading to the commercial quay at the Port. Road (5) consists of two lanes in each direction and connects the Port with the liquid and bulk material berth of 3.7 km long and a middle area that allows future expansion. Floated shall be the related tender for implementation by the end of 2015," pointed out Al-Marhobi

"There are also a number of other basic structure projects for the Port currently underway. They include levelling Duqm plateau expected to end in the first quarter of 2016. There is also the leveling project of 65 hectares as a first stage of the logistics area of 569 hectares at the Port. The implementation of the first phase is done under the supervision of specialists at Duqm Port Company and is expected to complete in October 2015," concluded Engineer Qasim bin Mohammed Al-Marhobi

Field Visits

During our visit to the temporary offices of Duqm Development Company located close





to the Port, a number of Omani engineers was visiting some of the sites. My visit (on Tuesday, September 8, 2015) coincided with organizing a visit of a number of contractors to familiarize themselves with the nature of the sites where there shall be light signals. Another group of engineers and technicians was at a training course designed to hone their skills and provide them with all the latest in their field.

Upon our arrival to the company's offices, Engineer Hussein bin Ali Al-Zidjali, Head of Buildings Department, Duqm Development Company, was responding to inquiries of some contractors trying to solve some of problems facing the progress of work in the projects.

We went to other sites to observe progress of the projects on the ground. He welcomed the idea and we went to the logistics area of the Port where the land was being leveled to prepare the Zone to achieve its goals. Then we drove on the new road from Duqm Port to Sai area, the center of Wilayat of Duqm, where the implementation of the new road at the Wilayat center, which began several months ago, is underway.

150 Housing Units for Residents and an Integrated Market

On the way, we discussed a number of projects he supervised, including the 150 housing unit project allocated to the residents, a project we visited about three months ago and has now reached advanced stages. It is one of the projects in that merge originality and modernism and an upscale neighborhood featuring various facilities required by modern neighborhoods.

Engineer Hussein also oversees a number of other projects, such as the buildings of SEZAD staff and Duqm Development Company located on the road between the Port and the Airport, to which the staff will move during 2017. He also oversees SEZAD staff accommodation project, which reached the design stage, and central market project tendered in August 2015. This market will be the nucleus of the modern Duqm City developed in a manner that meets the needs of the local community and residents,

as part of SEZAD vision to develop lifestyle in Duqm by relying on smart urban plans and effective design thereof. Construction of the new market will be in accordance with the modern style with central air-conditioning. The market shall consist of various facilities and sections that separate the meat market from the fish market. It shall contain a section for vegetables and fruits and other shops as well. The market shall also include an area dedicated to traditional goods as well as restaurants and administrative offices. The area of the land allocated to market shall be 68 thousand square meters, or about 7 hectares, and the area of the first phase of the market shall be 8 thousand square meters.

The implementation of the market is part of SEZAD efforts to make the new Duqm city one of the most favorable cities for living through making a balance between social, economic and environmental needs.

Drainage of Surface Water

After our return from the visit, we met with Dr. Saif bin Said Al-Hinai, Director of Drainage System, who had just came out the training session for the lunch break. In his interview with , he said:

"We are preparing studies on the drainage of surface water in the Zone and supervise the implementation of the necessary designs project implementation packages to ensure safe discharge of wadi water. The project of surface water discharge consists of three basic phase. The first package is drainage canal of Wadi Dingret under construction. The contractor completed the preliminary stage of the project and initiated digging the canal with a length of about 11 km. The implementation of the project shall take about 14 months. The second phase is drainage canals of Wadi Jarf and Wadi Sai already tendered. About 23 local and international compa-

Engineer Hussein Al-Zidjali: the 150 housing unit project allocated to the citizens is an upscale neighborhood featuring various main facilities of modern neighborhoods



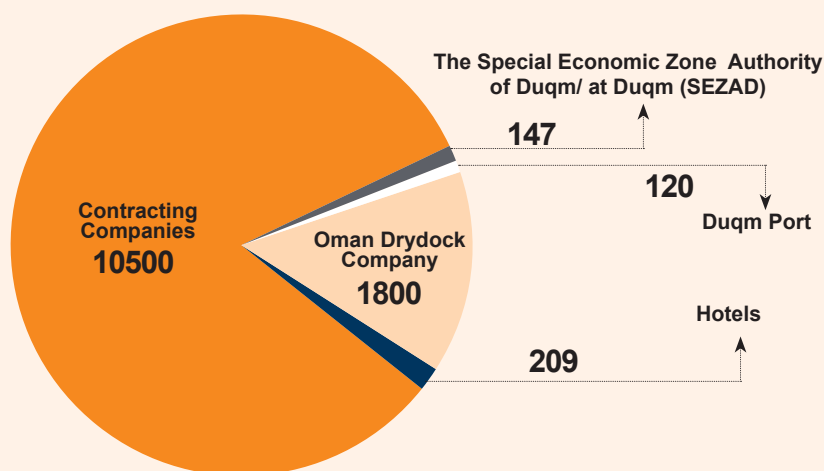


Water drainage channel at the logistics region of Duqm Port



Dr. Saif Al-Hinai: construction of protection dams and digging main and secondary drainage channels with absorptive capacities sufficient to drain wadi water

Number of Personnel at the Special Economic Zone of Duqm (SEZD) as of September 2015



nies have already purchased the related documents and the bidding deadline is 8 September 2015. The length of the canals of Jar and Sai is about 16 km and 10 km respectively. The construction of both canals shall begin immediately upon completion of the evaluation of technical and financial offers, adoption of the evaluation report and awarding the tender."

Al-Hinai pointed out that the third phase includes the establishment of protection dams at Wadi Jarf and Wadi Sai. Floated was the related tender in 28 August 2015 and 8 September 15 is the date for the field visit of contractors and bidding deadline will be 3 November 2015.

Dr. Al-Hinai indicated that the surface water discharge project

aims at providing the necessary protection projects currently implemented at the Zone through the construction of protection dams and digging main and secondary drainage channels with capacities sufficient to drain wadi water. He noted that the goal of these channels is to collect and discharge rainwater to the sea in a safe manner and through appropriate routes, taking into account the period of rainwater frequency up to 500 years.

Roads are a Vital Artery

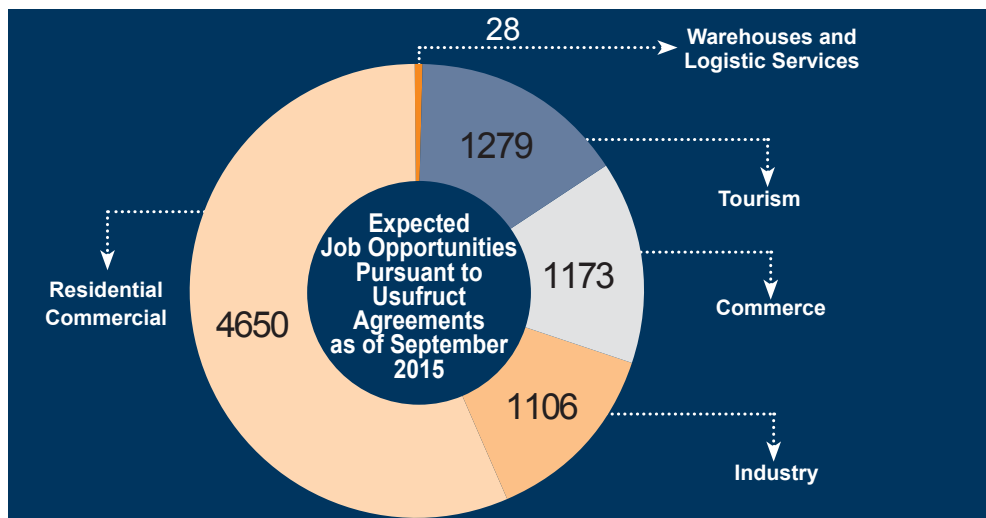
Roads are the vital artery that connects the various parts of the Zone. Engineer Tariq Mohammed Ahmed, road specialist, indicates that the road projects currently undertaken by SEZAD are more than 10 aimed at facilitating the movement of citizens, residents and visitors. Completed recently were two projects in this sector while many projects are under implementation, other projects have been awarded and 4 projects are at the design stage.

"The project of the duplication of the main road in Duqm is one of the most prominent projects currently undertaken by SEZAD. This road number (32) is at Sai area and (6.5 km) long. It is a two-way road with two lanes in each direction with service roads on both sides of (11) km. It has roundabouts and light signals on the four main intersections. The project also includes rainwater drainage, lighting, irrigation, landscap-





Discussions between engineers at Duqm Development Company and officials of the company executing the project of the main road at Duqm Center



Engineer Tariq Al-Ameen:
implementation of integrated road projects to facilitate the movement of citizens, residents and visitors

ing and corridors for future services,” indicated Engineer Tariq Mohammed Ahmed

“We have (4) road projects in the design stage, including roads (1) and (5) (referred to previously). We have also underway another project for the duplication and upgrading the efficiency of the main road (NR 32) (Duqm - Mahout), first phase (north from the intersection of Road 1 to Nifoun) of about 17 km. This shall be through a three-lane dual carriageway in each direction with external and internal shoulders and the middle island, and other road-related works. Works also includes a service road on both sides of the road in specific locations, a bridge across the wadi, rainwater drainage works on both sides of the road, paths for future services and lighting works,” added Ahmed.

He pointed out that the fourth project, which

was in the design phase when conducting this survey, was that of roads and basic structure in Duqm (first phase) of a total length of roads of 170 km in the residential area (1) and (2), and exhibitions and light industry areas.

Works also include water drainage, paths for future services, lighting, irrigation, and landscaping. He explained about 20 km only would be implemented in the residential area (1) as a first stage.

Awarded projects include the road leading to the sewage treatment plant (part 3), the road leading to the water bottling plant (part 2), and service road leading to the clinic.



Basic structure projects carried out by SEZAD do not end here, but this what we had time to follow. Day after day, ambition increases and projects grow so that a year from now we shall re-read the map of projects in the Zone to see the achievements and challenges that tomorrow would bring.



CEO of Port of Duqm in an exclusive interview for :

Port of Duqm

has global success qualifications and set for a pivotal role in international trade






◆ **By: Saleh Al-Mamari:**

Duqm Port Company is preparing to launch a new phase to place the Port of Duqm on the global port map by attracting different shipping lines and companies to use the Port to be central to their operations in the region.

Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of the Port of Duqm indicated that the company looks forward to making the Port an international one able to attract various shipping lines and provide the services they need, stressing that the Port, which is strategic in terms of its potentialities and unique location on the Arabian Sea has the potential to play this role.

“The Port, scheduled to operate at full capacity end of 2017 or early 2018, is the prime mover of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm and the vibrant heart that will pump activity and movement in the Zone. This shall be through the flow of investments, increase in commercial traffic volume, provision of services required for the growth of industrial activities, and encouraging the companies to avail the logistics services provided by the Port. It has a unique location in on the Arabian Sea in close proximity to the international shipping lines,” said Vermeulen in an interview for .

“Through the current work in the Port of Duqm, we cooperate with SEZAD to provide the necessary basic structure for the Port to be the prime mover of the Zone. Both in terms of internal commercial movement in the Sultanate or in the field of import, export and use of Port facilities by major companies in its operations in the Zone,” added CEO of the Port of Duqm.



Port of Duqm is on the way to be the vibrant heart of the region during the next phase



A first investment of OMR 6 million for the development of the logistics area and equipping it with basic equipment services



Signing of agreements with 15 local and international companies for the use of the facilities available in the logistics area

"Today, most of the ports in the region do meet the maritime market standards and needs, but the Port of Duqm has an additional and extraordinary nature advantage. Its strategic location is very special not only regionally but globally as it overlooks the Indian Ocean. It can reach directly to the Far East, Africa and India. In addition, the Port of Duqm is on the optimal shipping route between Asia and Europe. The services provided by the Port after operation will increase demand for its services towards important shipping lines," explained Vermeulen.

Logistics Area in the Port

The CEO of the Port of Duqm indicated that in order to develop lands within the Port and market those to the investors, the Port of Duqm Company created a dedicated marketing division to manage the logistics area of over 20 square kilometers. It shall also provide the same with services necessary for such areas within Port limits. He explained the first phase, which has already begun, would witness development of (6) square kilometers.

Mr. Vermeulen indicated that the cost of in-

vestment in this first area is about OMR 6 million, explaining that the area would be equipped by basic utilities and services in order to serve its clients. Already more than 15 local and international companies, notably Raysut Cement, DHL Bahwan Company, Duqm Civil Company and Richmond Company have decided to invest in Duqm.

He explained that the logistics area in the Port was divided into several sections according to a modern easily accessible system that would facilitate transport and unloading of various goods and containers in the service of the majority of investments, such as public goods, petrochemicals, liquids, minerals, rocks and cement. There are also sufficient spaces to serve the transport of goods by air across Duqm Airport. In a second phase, Oman Rail and Port of Duqm will alien in order to offer a seamless integration rail/port to the users of the port.

Absorptive Capacity

Reggy stressed the importance of ports in modern times, and said that most of the goods and supplies are transported by sea counting for about 70% and 75% of world trade. He indicated that this is evidence on the utmost importance of the Port in the Zone, which in turn will revive economic activity.

The CEO said the Port is planning to receive container ships, explaining that the capacity of the early container terminal is 200 thousand containers a year and will rise to 3.5 million containers annually in the future. The Port can also accommodate the export of 5 million tons minerals. As for the large gantry cranes, they will be available at the Port between 2017 and 2018. They shall raise the handling level of the Port to a record level of up to 3T /per crane. This is the level of movement required for such large-scale ports in terms of volume and performance.

Investment Plans

"There are two key factors the investor seeks in any port project, namely how he could deliv-





er his goods smoothly and easily, and nature of the speed of services available at the port, which grant the investor additional benefits,” Reggy went on to say.

“We have many expansion plans at this stage. There is growth in the number of projects in the Zone. For example, Duqm Refinery Project would receive many goods and materials by sea, and so we must work on it early. There are also projects that require presence in the logistic area of the Port to transport their goods and we are working to facilitate this and keep up with the developments in the projects. During the last period, we have seen interest from many delegations and businesspeople who visited the Port and some of them expressed a desire to invest in these lands. We are sure that these lands will be utilized properly,” asserted Duqm Port CEO.

Outlook

Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of the Port of Duqm expressed his hope that the Port would increase economic activity in the Sultanate and contribute to economic diversification. He said that the strive is to make the Port of Duqm the largest port of the Sultanate during the next phase and this certainly will bring an increase in the volume of imports and exports of the Sultanate in general. “We are targeting transport of liquid and bulk cargo soon and therefore we will provide options required for some of the industries that will be present in the Zone.

The presence of the Port of Duqm in the center of the Sultanate serves the oil and gas fields located in Al-Wusta Governorate and those nearby and enhances the complementary operation of ports in the Sultanate,” said Mr. Vermeulen.

“The Port of Duqm has comparative and competitive elements. It is large in size and a giant project that enjoys modern advantages and service facilities that will work in a modern way. Moreover, its strategic location will double its effect. Therefore, we can bet through these constituents on its ability to develop into one of the

largest ports in the Middle East in the long term. We can also confirm that the presence of these features make the Port a world-class multi-purpose and multi-model commercial gateway,” added Reggy.

Community Development

In the interview, the CEO of the Port of Duqm touched on the company's efforts in the implementation of projects that serve the local community. “We have many projects that directly serve the community in Duqm. We are in contact with the dignitaries and officials in the Wilayat. We support Omani Women's Association and the educational institutions there. We have supported a number of development programs there. Moreover, we are member of SEZAD Committee on Community Development that conducts many programs with a special focus on direct development projects that serve all segments of society. We are committed to the development of programs that contribute to community service. We also support the local community by outsourcing some contracts to local companies that provide us with water and cleaning and waste management services to mention only a few,” added Vermeulen.

Omanization

Mr. Vermeulen noted the orientation of the company to engage Omani employees at all stages of the Port project. “This approach enabled as high as (90%) Omanization in the Port,” said Vermeulen indicating that the total number of workers in the Port is (110) employees currently.

He explained that the company focuses on providing Omani employees with the necessary experience and skills required in the management, operation and processes in accordance with the highest international standards and prepare them for future work in the Port to be one of the elements of Port success locally and internationally. “I really appreciate and trust the Omani youth staff. Omani young people have efficiency and the ability to walk in the management of a project of this size,” concluded the CEO of the Port of Duqm.



Focus on granting Omani employees the necessary experience and skills required to manage an international port



Dr. Ahmed Al-Abri, Deputy CEO for Operations  :

12 Mega Projects by Oman Drydock Company

Omani staff at the Company has achieved many successes, one of the reasons for the prominence of company

Interview by: Eman Salem Al-Miqbali:

“The actual beginning of Oman Drydock Company was in June 2012 when it provided maintenance services to the first ship docked in one of its dry docks. This Company, wholly owned by the Government of the Sultanate, owns two giant docks of 410 (L) and 95 (W) meters and 410 (L) and 80 (W) meters respectively. The depth of both docks is 11 meters. They are equipped with all the necessary maintenance services, and have huge pumps to complete berthing operations in record times. The docks are surrounded with giant mobile cranes used in transport and movement operations of the various equipment during maintenance. The other professional and technical services are accomplished through the giant workshops lined up along the docks equipped with all devices and equipment necessary to carry out mechanical and electrical maintenance, steeling and painting.”





Dr. Ahmad Al-Abri
speaks to the editor

Thus began Dr. Ahmed Al-Abri, Deputy CEO for Operations, Oman Drydock Company his statement to **العم**. He added that the Company is currently implementing more than 12 diverse projects, most notably: conversion of the vessels owned by Greek Springfield Company. This project would continue until the end of next November. It shall involve the use of the latest model designing patterns, huge amounts of steel and large numbers of labor. He stressed that these conversions represent a milestone for the Company in terms of its ability to manufacture iron models.

He noted the industrial project in Rehab Harweel Field that involves cutting and manufacturing large amounts of steel transferred to the field for construction. "Oil barge Jebel Ali Pride is one of the special projects the dock is handling currently. We also have two other special projects for the reconstruction of a private wooden yacht and conversion of a cruise ship to a warship," added Al-Abri.

He pointed out that Oman Drydock Company has recently provided maintenance services for various types of vessels, such as giant oil, liquefied natural gas and petroleum gas tankers, container carriers, car carriers, ferries, cruise ships and others.

From the perspective of Dr. Ahmed Al-Abri, the priorities of the action plan for the Company during the next five years focus on the optimal use of the capacity of absorption and staff. He explained that the Company develops a plan to identify the people and time needed to perform

maintenance with the required precision to meet the deadlines. The Company provides specialized companies in navigation systems and precision engineering and provide all supplies for ships.

As for the world competition in the field of dry docks, Al-Abri stated that it is strong especially by the dry docks, which have experience up to 30 years in this area. "However, we are able to compete. The last three years have demonstrated the Company's ability to provide the best services in ship repair. The Company competed with other dry docks in terms of quality and competitive price. This is a major cause of attracting ships," indicated Al-Abri pointing out that the number of vessels maintained in the dry dock is more than 350.

"One of the main reasons for this success in the maintenance of this huge number of ships is the strategic location of the dry dock on the Arabian Sea near the international shipping lines," continued Al-Abri.

Dr. Ahmed benefited from his work for more than a decade in international ship maintenance companies and believes that the government designed the dry dock in Duqm in a high quality manner.

"Oman Drydock Company does its best to raise the efficiency of the Omani expertise to provide the services the Company's customers look for, which is another issue that enhances the Company's capabilities and ability. Omani staff at the dry dock has achieved many successes and they only are the secret of the company's

We were able to compete with international docks and the trust of the shipping lines increases our insistence

We provide maintenance services for giant oil, liquefied natural gas and petroleum gas tankers





The government designed the Dry Dock in Duqm in a high quality manner



A time plan for the completion of ship maintenance operations and determining number of required workforce

success and excellence,” stressed Al-Abri

Dr. Ahmad considers Omanisation the most important pillar of success in an organization of this size. He stated that the Company takes the initiative to employ Omanis in general and especially the people of the region. “Oman Drydock Company attracts the people of the region to work and contribute to many of the activities related to community service. From the technical side, training of nearly 150 technicians is underway by Oman Line Training Foundation to work in the dry dock at the end of the training period. There are also 23 engineers under training at the dry dock workshops before sending them abroad for training in international docks,” noted Al-Abri.

Dr. Ahmed considers local engineers more adaptable to the challenges in the area of ship maintenance. He pointed out that Oman Drydock Company has provided specialized instructors in different areas of maintenance to perform work at a high quality. Dr. Ahmed is very optimis-

tic that Omanisation will increase to more than 40% in the future, stressing that the owners of the shipping lines praise Omani staff.

He stressed that the support and assistance enjoyed by Oman Drydock Company from various government agencies contributed to overcoming many challenges and acceleration of doing business to the fullest. He praised the support by the Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm (SEZAD) and ROP and other government agencies.

In the opinion and through previous long experience in the field of large-scale projects and business consultancy, Al-Abri believes that SEZAD has a wonderful future as planned by officials. “The momentum of interest by investors will increase steadily in the coming years. Therefore, focus should be on doubling care and attention accorded to those who want to invest in addition striving to attract opportunities to promote the Zone locally and globally,” concluded Deputy CEO for Operations of Oman Drydock Company.





The banking sector welcomes investors in Duqm

Muscat :

The banking sector confirmed its ability to finance various project in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm (SEZD). During the signing of MOUs with the Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm (SEZAD), local banks and their Islamic windows confirmed their willingness to finance projects implemented in the Zone, stressing their confidence in the Zone ability to attract foreign investment and provide appropriate investment climate for the growth of domestic investments.

During 2014 and 2015, SEZAD signed five MOUs with the National Bank of Oman, Bank Sohar, Bank Dhofar, Bank Muscat and Al-Ahli Bank. These MOUs stipulate that the banks and their Islamic windows shall facilitate obtainment of funds for the investors and companies wishing to implement projects in the Zone.

The signing of the said MOUs with local banks is part of SEZAD efforts to encourage local and foreign companies to invest in the Zone, attract more investment, and to overcome the obstacle of funding faced by many investors.

The banks confirmed that the funding provided for projects implemented in the Zone is not limited to major projects but also includes small and medium enterprises. Moreover, banks allow investors to choose the type of funding that suits them, either through loans provided by traditional banks or through Sharia-compliant finance.

Under the MOUs, SEZAD shall present the offers it may receive from commercial banks and their Islamic windows to investors, companies and establishments wishing to invest in the Zone. For their part, the banks shall provide a variety of services to investors. In the area of corporate banking, the banks will provide various types of

Banks confirm their efforts to motivate investors to implement new projects

SEZAD seeks to encourage local and foreign companies to invest in the Zone



Signing MOU with Bank Sohar



Signing MOU with Bank Muscat



And with the National Bank



**Attention to
SMEs and
allowing
them to
invest in
Duqm**

financing required by the companies. They shall also provide loans, various expenditure bonds, term loans, residential loans, financial and investment consultancies of all kinds, banking electronic services, commercial credit security and many other services. The MOUs also include SMEs banking, and the work of Islamic windows.

Commitment to Funding

Mohammed bin Mahfouz Al-A'ridhi, Chairperson of the National Bank of Oman, expressed his delight for signing an MOU with SEZAD: "We are delighted to partner with SEZAD to finance projects implemented in the Zone."

"National Bank of Oman is committed to providing the best banking services to companies wishing to operate in the Zone and we will provide the best banking services and offers to SEZAD and all the companies applying through it," added Al-A'ridhi.

He praised the level of investment in the Zone: "The bank has contributed to financing the first phase of Duqm Façade City. This is a source of pride for us to be part of the suc-

cess achieved in the Zone. This experience will enable us to provide better services to various companies in the coming period."

Motivating Investors

For his part, Abdullah bin Humaid bin Said Al-Ma'amari, Chairperson of Bank Sohar, stressed the importance of the MOU signed by the bank to motivate the investors to implement new projects for the Zone. "We are delighted to cooperate with SEZAD to finance projects implemented in the Zone. We look forward to be a part of the success story achieved," indicated Al-Ma'amari.

"We look forward to contributing to the achievement of SEZAD objectives to diversify the sources of national income and support economic and social development of Al-Wusta Governorate and all the other governorates of the Sultanate," added Al-Ma'amari.

He stressed that Bank Sohar will provide everything to promote investment in the Zone and provide the funding that investors are looking for. He said that bank shall allocate its experience to achieve this goal by provid-



looking at the photographer, Expatriate at the NBO teller window in Duqm



Signing MOU with Bank Dhofar



And Al-Ahli Bank

ing the best banking services to the companies wishing to work in the Zone, best banking services and special offers to SEZAD and the companies applying through it.

Financing of Various Projects

Abdul-Hakim bin Omar Al-Ojaili, Acting Chief Executive of Bank Dhofar, indicated the commitment of the bank to provide facilities that encourage investors to invest in Duqm. "We promise investors to provide the funding they need to implement their projects with soft terms," said Al-Ojaili.

"Bank Dhofar is keen to contribute to the development witnessed by the Sultanate. During recent years, it financed several major projects and we will continue our efforts to finance various projects in Oman. We will provide many facilities to investors and companies wishing to invest in Duqm," added Al-Ojaili.

Attracting Investment

Abdul-Razak Ali Essa, CEO of Bank Muscat, expressed his hope that the MOU

signed with SEZAD would contribute to attracting many investments to the Zone. He welcomed the various private sector companies and establishments and called them to get to know the facilities and benefits offered by the bank to investors in both SMEs sector and the corporate sector.

He stressed that Bank Muscat is keen to contribute to the development witnessed by the Sultanate and that it has financed several major projects over the recent years. "We will continue our efforts to finance the various projects in Oman and we will provide various facilities to investors and companies wishing to invest in the Zone, which we consider and encouraging and investment-attracting environment," added Essa

Facilitating Access to Banking Services

Lloyd Maddock, Chief Executive Officer of Al-Ahli Bank stated: "We move forward towards supporting SEZAD vision through facilitating products and services of Al-Ahli Bank and Al-Hilal Islamic banking services to finance projects implemented in the Zone."



**Signing
MOUs with
local banks
and their
Islamic
windows
to fund
projects**



One official at the branch of Bank Muscat in Duqm talking with a customer



Sulaiman Al-Harthy:

Meethaq

has an excellent status to provide support and funding for various projects



Focus on granting Omani employees the necessary experience and skills required to manage an international port

We are studying a number of offers for financing commercial and industrial projects in Duqm

Muscat :

Sulaiman bin Hamad Al-Harthy, Director General of Islamic Banking (Meethaq) in Bank Muscat indicated that the Special Economic Zone Duqm (SEZD) is one of the most promising areas and one of the modern economic zones in the Sultanate. It has multiple economic benefits. He stressed the readiness of Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat to offer various Shariah-compliant banking facilities for the success of the projects in various fields, concerning the financing of basic structure projects or the factories of various investment projects. He noted that Meethaq signed during the last period a number of MOUs and financing agreements for the establishment of a number of factories and commercial projects in the Zone.

"Meethaq organized a number of investment meetings and seminars in cooperation with SEZAD to highlight the commercial and economic opportunities in the Zone. He expressed his happiness and appreciation for the efforts exerted by SEZAD to highlight the various characteristics of the Zone. We shall continue our cooperation with SEZAD to highlight and market the commercial opportunities in the Zone and organize visits by commercial delegations from various world countries," Al-Harthy explained.

Many Financing Offers

Sulaiman Al-Harthy pointed out that Meethaq is currently considering a number of offers submitted by the establishments and companies that applied for funding for the implementation of a number of business ventures or the establishment of new factories in the Zone. "We are keen to participate in the support and the success of various new ideas and projects that these companies would implement especially SMEs support. We have already signed a number of agreements and MOUs to provide funding for a number of commercial projects," elaborated Al-Harthy

"Meethaq is a pioneer the field of Islamic banking in the Sultanate. It enjoys an excellent position to provide support and funding to the various establishments and companies, innovative services and value-added products and Shariah-compliant banking solutions. This is through a strategy aimed at attracting establishments in various sectors and provide banking facilities to individuals. Meethaq also has plans to strengthen the network of branches in the Sultanate and expand the provision of services in all parts of the Sultanate, including opening a branch or an office in the Zone to provide consulting and various banking facilities and services," added Al-Harthy

Ready to Finance

"The basic structure projects of the Zone are among the important areas that we can invest in. We can also provide funding for companies that plan to set up economic projects, and the factories that provide additional economic value to the Zone, in particular, or the Sultanate in general. The investment and economic climate of the Zone is good and there are many business opportunities that must be invested in various fields. We are ready to provide facilities for investors and companies wishing to invest in the Zone, which we consider an encouraging and investment-attracting environment," added Al-Harthy.

Inviting Companies to Take Initiative


Al-Harthy demanded Omani businesspeople and entrepreneurs to launch initiatives in the implementation and success of the projects, put forward new ideas, and not rely always on the government in terms of the Zone projects or other projects in the Sultanate. He pointed out that the Sultanate need new initiatives and ideas that contribute to the development of the Omani economy and provide real value for new projects, adding that Meethaq will back these initiatives, and contribute to their success and provide support to them through required banking facilities and funding.



Acting CEO of Bank Dhofar:



Strategic investment projects in Duqm give confidence to financial institutions in the Zone success

Muscat  :

Abdul-Hakim bin Omar Al-Ojaili, Acting Chief Executive of Bank Dhofar, indicated that the major strategic investment projects, such as Duqm Port, Duqm Refinery, dry dock, power plant and other existing projects give confidence to banking and financial institutions in the success of the Zone, its role in strengthening the national economy and diversification of sources of national income. He added that there is a huge possibility for the development of the Zone through the various industrial sectors and investment projects, which in turn will stimulate economic activity and benefit the Zone through the provision of employment opportunities for local labor force and revitalizing the other sectors, such as SMEs. They shall also open the way for local investors to contribute to the growth and development of the Zone.

Al-Ojaili emphasized the role of Bank Dhofar in the financing of several major development projects in the Sultanate. "Bank Dhofar is in the forefront of the financiers of the projects of national importance in the country, and we look forward to finance the next proposed projects, service providers, hotels and other projects."

Integrated Services

"Bank Dhofar branch in Duqm offers the investors a full range of banking services, such

as opening and operating accounts, deposit accounts, transfers, etc., in addition to assessing credit requirements (loans, letters of credit and guarantees, etc.)," Al-Ojaili stated about the services offered by the bank to investors.

He touched upon a number of projects Bank Dhofar has funded, such as Contractors' Permanent Accommodation, a hotel project and others. "There is a big demand for products and services of Bank Dhofar, specifically designed to meet the needs of clients. They are also commensurate with the current phase requirements and next stages to develop the economic projects at the level of the Sultanate."

SMEs Support

"We are working in Bank Dhofar to encourage entrepreneurs and SMEs owners contribute that contribute to the revitalization of the economic sector in general. We are also keen to meet the different banking needs of our clients of large companies and SMEs, allowing clients the opportunity to enjoy innovative banking solutions. These would contribute to the development of their projects and provide them with adequate funding for the growth and development of their business," concluded Al-Ojaili on the efforts undertaken by Bank Dhofar to promote investment sectors and contribute to the development and support of SMEs in Duqm.

We look forward to financing the proposed projects, service providers, hotels and other projects

Financing permanent contractors' accommodation, hotel project and provision of a full range of banking services to investors

The Integration between International Ports and Free Zones

Free zones are special areas within the customs territory of the Community, goods placed within these areas are free of import duties, Value Added Tax (VAT) and other import charges, goods for export can also be put in free zones as this allows for (VAT) zero rating. Furthermore, Community goods may be put in free zones in order to benefit from Community legislation governing export refunds or the repayment of import duties. In addition, there may be special reliefs available in free zones from other taxes, excises or local duties. These will differ from one zone to another; free zones are mainly a service for traders to facilitate trading procedures by allowing fewer customs formalities.

Types of Free Zones

Free trade zones: also known as commercial free zones and free commercial zones, are small, fenced-in, duty-free areas, offering ware housing, storage, and distribution facilities for trade, transshipment, and re-export operations, located in most ports of entry around the world. A leading example is the Colon Free Zone in Panama.

Export processing zones: are industrial estates offering special incentives and facilities for manufacturing and related activities aimed mostly at export markets, typically take two forms. In the traditional EPZ model, the entire area within the zone is exclusively for export-oriented enterprises licensed under an EPZ regime. Hybrid EPZs, in contrast, are typically sub-divided into a general zone open to all industries regardless of export orientation and a separate EPZ area reserved for export-oriented, EPZ-registered enterprises.

Free Ports: are generally a much broader concept and typically encompass much larger areas. They accommodate all types of activities, including tourism and retail sales, permit people to reside on site, and provide a much broader set of incentives and benefits. free port, port, or section of a port, exempt from customs regulations. Goods may be landed at a free port for storage and handling, and they may even be processed into manufactured goods. Duty is charged only if the goods are moved from the free port into the adjacent territory.

Enterprise zones: are intended to revitalize distressed urban or rural areas through the provision of tax incentives and financial

grants. Most zones are in developed countries, for example the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, although South Africa is developing a similar mechanism.

Single factory EPZ: schemes provide incentives to individual enterprises regardless of location; factories do not have to locate within a designated zone to receive incentives and privileges.⁶ Leading examples of countries relying exclusively on a single factory scheme include Mauritius, Mexico and Fiji; other countries such as Costa Rica, United States, and Sri Lanka allow both industrial estate-style zones and single factory designations.

Rationale for Zone Development

The rationale for the development of special economic zones differs between developing and developed countries. For developing countries, these zones have traditionally had both a policy and an basic structure rationale. The typical special economic zone policy package includes import and export duty exemptions, streamlined customs and administrative controls and procedures, liberal foreign exchange policies, and income tax incentives all meant to boost an investment's competitiveness and reduce business entry and operating costs. Export oriented zones are intended to convey "free trade status" to export manufacturers, enabling them to compete in global markets and counterbalance the anti-export bias of trade policies.

Characteristics of Free Trade Zones

- Above average business basic structure: Within a fenced industrial estate, tenants are provided with above quality basic structure and services compared to the standards of the host country – such as land, office space, utilities, logistics services, business services and other facilities.
- More flexible business regulations: Customs services are streamlined and red tape is kept to a minimum, often through one-stop shopping for permits and investment applications. Labor and other business related legislation is generally more flexible compared to the laws and regulations applied to business located elsewhere in the host country.
- An offshore location: The free trade zone



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is chosen as a location for business activities moving offshore, away from the markets where the finished products are sold in search of a low or lower cost manufacturing basis.

- Focus on export: Enterprises located within the zones produce mainly or exclusively for foreign markets, markets outside the host country.
- Attractive incentive packages: Major component of the FTZ-concept are the incentive packages offered to foreign investors. These incentives include:
 - unlimited duty drawbacks or exemptions from import duties on raw materials, intermediate inputs and capital goods used in the production of exported products
 - exemptions from the payment of sales tax on exported products as well as on all goods and services domestically purchased and used in their production
 - Tax holidays, rebates or reduced tax rates on corporate income or profits, linked to the export performance of companies or to the percentage of exports in total production.

Reasons to developing free zones

In support of a wider economic reform strategy: In this view, EPZs are a simple tool permitting a country to develop and diversify exports. Zones are a way of reducing anti-export bias while keeping protective barriers intact. The EPZs of Taiwan (China) and the Republic of Korea follow this pattern.

To serve as "pressure valves" to alleviate growing unemployment: EPZ programs of Tunisia and the Dominican Republic are frequently cited as examples of robust, job-creating programs that have remained enclaves with few linkages to their host economies.

As experimental laboratories for the application of new policies and approaches: China's free ports are classic examples of this category. Financial, legal, labor, and even pricing policies were introduced and tested first within the free ports before being extended to the rest of the economy.

To attract foreign direct investment: Most new SEZ programs, particularly in the Middle East, are designed to attract foreign investment.

International ports and free zones

From the logistics point of view, ports are

part of the logistics systems along the supply chain which have to respond to pull logistics; their action will contribute towards the reduction of inventory levels along the logistics pipeline, a fall in associated costs, and the fulfillment of tighter customers' requirements through high service levels within shorter lead-times.

World class ports are those ports with a strategic location and large handling and logistics facilities, based on high quality of basic structure and superstructure, one major characteristic of these ports is that they are reasonably big in area size and draft along the berths, to enable them to attract modern generations of vessels, having reliable and well developed feeder and inland transport systems/connections, these ports are very efficient in cargo handling and providing high performance logistics services within the global supply chain, with a very cost effective services.

There is a strong world interest in ensuring that ports operate efficiently and safely, providing competitive services, and that ports support and, several countries interest in ports is stemmed from the vital role that ports play as gateways of economic trade and commerce, foster economic development locally and nationally, improving port productivity in all segments of the supply chain, as ports play a key role in international logistics operations, it is in the ports where many of the business opportunities have been identified, that explains the quest for many ports to establish free zones and logistics centers within ports.

For world class ports to lead global logistics within their respective regions, as those in Netherlands, Singapore and Hong Kong have consistently expanded their logistics facilities, accompanied by establishing free trade zones as part of their efforts to consolidate and centralize logistics management, as a result these ports become favorite locations for global firms.

The increasing number of logistics centers and FTZs in ports around the world explains the important role of ports in terms of their logistics function. New port functions, encompassing logistics centers and FTZ have been having a profound effect on the port industry in the region, as major ports rush to utilize these new logistics systems.



Project Development Manager at the Central Utility Company to :

Floating a tender for the establishment of seawater intake plant before the end of 2015

Muscat :


Engineer Abdullah Al-Hashmi, Project Development Manager, Central Industrial Utilities Company, indicated that the company will float before the end of this year a tender for the establishment of a seawater intake plant and reuse thereof for industrial purposes at the Special Economic Zone Duqm after it had recently completed all the preparatory work for it.

The plant is one of the most important basic facilities required to implement Duqm Refinery Project in addition to industrial projects, which will be established in the Zone. In November, SEZAD signed an agreement with the Company to provide all utilities for the industrial zone for 25 renewable years.





Sea water intake stations attracts many industries

In an exclusive interview with , Al-Hashmi stated:

"The Company is working to complete the plant on time and according to the action plan composed of 5 stages. The first phase includes the development of comprehensive primary concepts of the project and choice of the right design. The second phase relating to preliminary engineering designs focuses on the design rules, project specifications, engineering pre-qualification, procurement, and construction. The third stage relating to the engineering designs includes quantity surveying, making inshore designs, and developing initial designs and engineering studies for the plant. The fourth phase relating to project management focuses on the design of control systems, buildings, and workshops, study of hazards, operability study, and presenting engineering design. It shall also include conducting the tender package of engineering, procurement, and construction, including the evaluation process. The fifth stage relates to the phase of construction. According to the action plan, it will continue for 24 months that shall involve supervision of project construction, reviewing the detailed designs during construction and finding solutions to the difficulties and obstacles that may arise .

As for the ownership of the Company, Takamul Investment Company holds 65% of its shares while SembCorp Group of Singapore owns the remaining 35% of the shares.

One Service Provider

The concept of centralized utilities is in line with the new international practices for industrial estates that depend on one service provider. The Company shall provide all utility services through one-stop service.


Engineer Al-Hashmi said that seawater intake plant and reuse of the same for industrial purposes aims to provide cooling water for the

establishment of petrochemical industries in the Zone, notably Duqm Refinery. The construction of the refinery shall attract many investments in the petrochemical sector and save time and effort for companies operating in the Zone, as the Central Utilities Company will provide central services through the central service station it will establish. Through it, the Company shall provide all services to the industrial projects through a single window station. These services shall include cooling water for industrial purposes, industrial gases, industrial water treatment and electricity without prejudice to the laws of the electricity sector. Other services also include management of internal logistic service within the scope of the industrial zone. He asserted that the one-stop service will enable industrial enterprises to focus on their core business and therefore save operation and facility management expenses and avoid duplication of investment in facilities. This will give an additional value to the Zone and help attract investors in the industrial sector to the Zone.

Electricity and Water Project

In his interview, Engineer Al-Hashmi touched upon other projects implemented by the Company. He indicated that the Company obtained in October 2014 a license from the Electricity Regulatory Authority for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity and water to the projects of Oman Oil Company. In accordance with this license, the Company will build a power plant with a capacity of 300 MW with a water desalination plant of a capacity of 1500 cubic meters per hour to serve the projects of Oman Oil Company in Duqm. He noted that the Central Utilities Company would float early next year a public tender for the construction of power and water plants, hoping to complete the project by the end of 2018.




Construction of two power and water desalination plants for the projects of Oman Oil Company in Duqm


Provision of all the services for industrial projects through a single window


One-stop service enables industrial enterprises to reduce expenses and focus on core businesses




Environment Services Manager at ORPIC to 

Environmental requirements are a safety valve for industrial zones

By: Eman bint Salem Al-Miqbali:

Engineer Hamad Al-Romhi, Environment Services Manager at ORPIC, asserted that environmental requirements laid down by the competent authorities in the economic, industrial and free zones are the safety valve for these zones and contribute to reducing the risks that result from industries therein.

In an exclusive interview to , he indicated that the competent environment departments in the oil institutions play an active role in monitoring, analyzing and evaluating all environmental phenomena that result from factory operations. The technical crew takes samples from the various units involved, whether solid, liquid or gaseous samples and examine the same periodically to make sure they comply with environmental monitoring regulations. He pointed out that the engineers in the Environment Department play a key role in coordinating with various departments to discuss the readings and indicators of emission sources, such as chimneys and industrial water treatment plants to identify the challenges and minimize the discharge of any pollutants to the atmosphere or the marine environment.

Addressing Environmental Challenges

Al-Romhi indicated that ORPIC faced the environmental challenges through the development of a plan for environmental improvement and implementation of a number of important projects to reduce the severity of odors and emissions, manage industrial waste properly, and promote the role of media in spreading awareness among citizens about these heavy oil industries and the resulting environmental phenomena. He explained that environmental improvement plan developed by the company in 2011 focused on 3 themes: improving the performance of industrial water treatment plant, controlling odors, reduction of the sulfur oxides emitted from a gas moisture washing unit, and management of industrial waste. In this regard, he said that there are four stations for monitoring air quality comprising two fixed and two mo-

bile units distributed according to the instructions of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and linked electronically to the monitoring center at the Ministry. Moreover, ORPIC also monitors all emissions from fixed sources and send monthly reports to the Ministry. Air Quality Monitoring Center, inaugurated in December 2014, links all the indicators and data from different devices in a standard database for easy determination of pollution sources and responding to complaints.

Environmental Legislation

Eng. Hamad Al-Romhi asserted that it is imperative during the stage of impact assessment phase (EIA) of any project that depends on the oil and petrochemical industries to consider all international environment-related requirements and compare them with the regulations issued by the

Environmental planners are required to update the laws and consider global legislation and link it to the climate in the Sultanate





Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs. He pointed out that some mega projects include new technologies not covered by the local or regional environmental requirements. In this case, we should resort to some international requirements and laws applicable by the World Bank, the European Union and the US Environmental Protection Agency that include most modern technology and environmental requirements related to oil and gas projects in more detail. "The Ministry has reviewed some of the laws and included some of the international requirements in environmental permits items to be appropriate to the nature of the project and determine most of the environmental aspects relating to its operations. Some international environmental requirements may not apply fully to the project design due to the different nature of the Sultanate's climate. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss some of these laws with the Ministry

and agree on the required amendment thereof," added Al-Romhi

Handling Emergencies

"The occurrence of emergencies in any oil facility is expected by virtue of the hazardous materials used and produced and the nature of the work units, which requires the presence of an effective system of HSE procedures. ORPIC has gone through several emergencies during operation, particularly fires and oil spills. However, ORPIC put safety and the environment at the forefront of its priorities and develops the awareness among employees of the need to report any impending incidents or unsafe phenomena. We also train them to deal with any emergency incidents. These efforts have led to controlling the environment incidents. In this regard, I must praise the concerted efforts of firefighters and technical teams to reduce damages and losses. ORPIC also concludes contracts with other neighboring companies, especially with qualified and certified companies to deal with any oil leaks from its plants. Environment preservation team also provides the equipment and supplies necessary to deal with incidents of light oil leaks that can be controlled internally," elaborated Al-Romhi on HSE measures at ORPIC.

"The establishment of heavy and petrochemical industries projects requires attention to the associated services in industrial zones, such as industries to dispose of depleted oils, hazardous industrial waste and industrial water treatment and reuse. This also requires setting controls on air quality control in the surrounding area through the neutral consultant working on air pollutants data collection of each project and submit a periodic report of all the emissions and concentrations in the area through air dispersion modelling," concluded Environment Services Manager at ORPIC.

Monitoring, analyzing and evaluating environmental phenomena resulting from factory operations is a prerequisite for environment preservation

Air Quality Monitoring Center provides standard data for easy determination of pollution sources





Rania Omar Safar
Social Responsibility Consultant

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Integration in Social Responsibility

I had the chance to visit the Sultanate of Oman for the first time to participate by a working paper at Duqm Economic Forum in April 2015. I had the pleasure to visit the picturesque Duqm area and get to know the people of Oman known for their goodness, generosity and culture.

My paper was on integration between the private/ government sector and charitable service sector. The reason for choosing this topic is the mixed results I found at the general level. I shall detail this hereunder in light of my simple analysis the current situation of the three sectors that lack integration sometimes.

In many countries, private sector companies strive to look for ways to serve the community outside the organization and expect that they can meet the needs of the community through cooperation with charities after a sad message describing the painful reality of orphans or the poor or equipping schools with smart boards. However, the problem is not here. The problem is as if one is helping my son without my permission or knowledge about this help. I may need help in connection with my other son, who is more in need or at least I need to know who helped my son to thank him.

Why do not private sector companies cooperate with the government sector to help the private sector or at least, in the case of help, to organize an opening ceremony of the project that involves the related government sector? This sector must know and have information on the company's contribution in this area, because the government sector's appreciation for this company is important. Some government sectors provide these companies with facilities

in some of the procedures for their services to the community and others.

Perhaps the government sector may need assistance in the implementation of more important projects for a more important target group other than public education students, such as people with special needs, for example.

In addition, the charitable sector needs follow-up and monitoring of the quality of work in order for the company that contributed to know where it spent its money through reports. Then it can decide whether to continue, change, expand and improve its plan because some associations lack proper institutional management and need support.

In addition, projects submitted to this sector must have standards. For example, the project should have a value, lasting impact, sustainability, and compatibility with the company's orientations. We must cooperate with the public sector to help the service sector through study, research and gathering stakeholders in this area. Therefore, there are companies specialized in social responsibility designed to help the private sector to serve the community properly inside and outside the organization.

Charity is different from ongoing charity. Charity is public relations and their contributions to international days' activities while ongoing charity is social responsibility and its sustainable projects such as building human and space.

Finally, integration is broader and stronger than cooperation and participation, because integration implies sustainability, and this is the true sense of social responsibility.



Attractive legislation aimed at placing Duqm on the global investment map (1-3)



Duqm :

The Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm (SEZAD) has finalized a number of regulations and legislation that will enable the Zone to achieve its objectives and place Duqm on the global investment map. The current year 2015 has witnessed issuance of regulations concerning project registration, organization of urban planning and building permits, organization of investment environment, organization of environmental permits, and regulation of land usufruct.

The issuance of these regulations and legislation are in implementation of the Royal Decrees related to the Zone, and a part of SEZAD efforts to raise the competitiveness of Duqm and provide an encouraging investment environment.



Completion of regulations concerning the organization of investment environment, registration of projects, urban planning, environmental permits and land usufruct

Project Registration in the Zone

The Regulation on Projects Registration in SEZAD, issued in January 2015, provided for the establishment of the Department of Commercial Registration in SEZAD to keep the commercial register in the Zone, enrollment applications and records of written-off projects. It states that the categories that should register are the traders and companies whose headquarters are in the Zone and branches of companies established in the Zone by traders or commercial companies whose headquarters are outside the Zone, whether inside or outside the Sultanate. The Regulation provided a grace period of one year that ends in February 2016 for the projects, professional activities and handicraft existing in the Zone on the effective date of the Regulation to adjust their positions. The Regulation also stipulates the renewal of registration in the register every five years by an application submitted by the stakeholders at least (30) days before the expiry of its term provided meeting the required conditions and payment of the legally prescribed fees.

Organization of Urban Planning and Building Permits

The Regulation on Urban Planning and Building Permits issued in July 2015 targeted organizing the construction of buildings in the Zone and set conditions for that. It stressed that it is impermissible to establish any building or development project in the Zone before obtaining a license from SEZAD. It states that the main operator or developer should develop the general plan of the site specified in the development contract. This would consist of the regulatory schemes at all levels, such as detailed survey, outline overall organization, and outline of detailed organization. It noted that organizational schemes should be in accordance with SEZAD vision, prepared as per the approved planning standards by specialized and qualified companies and engineering consultancy offices licensed to operate in the Sultanate.

Regulation on Investment Environment

The Regulation on Investment Environment in the Zone provided for the procedures for granting

licenses for the establishment of economic activities. It states that it is impermissible for projects to engage in any economic activity in the Zone without first obtaining a license from SEZAD in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation as well as the license of any other related body the activity is subject to its jurisdiction. If the project would engage in more than one activity in the Zone, it must obtain a license for each activity in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation and decisions issued in implementation thereof.

Regulation on Environmental Permits

This Regulation emphasizes the importance of preserving the environment in the various projects being implemented in the Zone. It asserts that SEZAD is the body that issues the necessary environmental permits for projects and take the necessary environmental measures. It pointed out that it is impermissible for projects to operate or amend their activities without an environmental permit from SEZAD. It stipulates that SEZAD shall issue the environmental permits for projects only after verification of the availability of environmental requirements established in accordance with the provisions of Law and Regulation on Environmental Permits.

Regulation on Land Usufruct

This Regulation states that SEZAD alone may license the usufruct of state-owned lands in the Zone and that no natural or juristic person can have such usufruct without prior authorization from SEZAD. It stipulates that usufruct license for projects shall be for a return determined by SEZAD Board of Directors after the approval of the Ministry of Finance in order for these projects to conduct/ expand their operations or construction of residential buildings for their workers. Usufruct licensing for government agencies, places of worship, institutions of public interest, and charities shall also be for nominal fees or free of charge by a decision of SEZAD Board of Directors after the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

Given the importance of these regulations, published TWO of them in this issue and the remaining in the coming issue.





Decision No. 21/2015

Issuing the Enterprise Registration Regulation at Duqm Special Economic Zone

Pursuant to Royal Decree No. 119/2011 establishing Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority and promulgating its Articles;

Royal Decree No. 79/2013 promulgating Duqm Special Economic Zone Articles;

Royal Decree No 44/2014 lifting the capacity of a public utility from some of the enterprises located within Duqm Special Economic Zone plan; and

Approval of the Board of Directors of Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority in its second meeting convened on 13 April 2014; and

In the interest of the public,

It has been decided

Article One

Provisions of the attached Regulation shall be applicable to the registration of enterprises at Duqm Special Economic Zone.

Article Two

The enterprises, whether they take the form of a sole proprietorship, company, branch of a company or foreign firm, the professional activities and handicraft activities existing at Duqm Special Economic Zone on the date this Regulation has come into force shall regularize their situations, within one year from the date this Regulation has come into force, in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

Article Three

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Duqm Special Economic Zone shall issue the decisions and instructions necessary to enforce the provisions of the attached Regulation.

Article Four

There shall be repealed anything that violates or contradicts with this decision and the attached Regulation.

Article Five

This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the date following the date of publication.

Issued on: 21 Rabee Al Awaal 1436H

Corresponding to: 12th January 2015

Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri
Chairman of the Board of Directors

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The regulation issued originally in Arabic. In the event of inconsistency between this translation and Arabic regulation, the Arabic text will prevail.



Enterprises Registration Regulation at Duqm Special Economic Zone

Chapter I

Definitions and General Provisions

Article (1)

In application of the provisions of this Regulation, the following words and expressions shall have the meaning set out against each of them unless the context otherwise requires:

Authority: Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority.

Zone: The Special Economic Zone located in the Wilayat of Duqm for the purpose of establishing economic, services and other enterprises, which its boundaries and location are shown in the plan attached to Royal Decree No. 119/2011 and Royal Decree No. 44/2014 referred to herein in this Regulation.

Board: Board of Directors of the Authority.

Chairman: Chairman of the Board.

Main Operator or Developer: The entity that assumes management and operation of strategic facilities at the Zone or the entity that assumes development of part of the State's lands at the Zone.

Enterprises: The enterprises licensed to operate at the Zone, whether they take the form of a sole proprietorship, company, branch of a company or foreign firm and the professional and handicraft activities licensed at the Zone.

Department: The Commercial Registration Department at the Authority provided for in Article 4 of this Regulation.

Register: The Commercial Register at the Zone.

Article (2)

Provisions of this Regulation shall apply to the enterprises licensed at the Zone, however, where there is no specific text provided for thereon, in this Regulation and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, provisions of the Commercial Register Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 3/74, its Executive Regulation and the decisions issued in implementation thereof shall apply.

Article (3)

The Department shall maintain the following registers:

1. Applications Registration Register: The register wherein names and particulars of applicants for registration are recorded.
2. Commercial Register of the Zone: The register wherein statements and information on enterprises, date of registration, type of economic activity and legal form of the enterprise, land usufruct contracts at the Zone and mortgage contracts on the assets of the enterprises are recorded.
3. Register of the delisted enterprises: The register wherein details of the delisted enterprises and reasons for the delisting are recorded.

Chapter II

Registration of Enterprises in the Register

Article (4)

A department under the name of "Commercial Registration Department" shall be established at the Authority to maintain the register and other registers referred to in Article (3) of this Regulation.

Article (5)

The following categories shall register themselves in the Register:

1. The traders whose principal place of business is at the Zone.
2. The commercial companies whose principal place of business is at the Zone.
3. Branches of companies established at the Zone by traders or commercial companies whose principal place of business is outside the Zone whether in the

Sultanate or abroad.

Article (6)

Commercial companies may record themselves in the register, if they took one of the following legal forms:

1. General partnership
2. Limited Partnership
3. Joint Stock Company
4. Limited liability Company

Article (7)

The following categories shall be exempted from registration:

1. Banks and financial institutions, insurance and reinsurance companies and the enterprises operating in the field of providing telecommunication and land transportation services and other enterprises whose activities extend beyond the boundaries of the Zone.
2. Professionals who practice the profession in an individual capacity under licenses issued by the competent authorities in accordance with the law, provided that the activity doesn't take the form of a company, branch of a company, agency or any other commercial enterprise.
3. Individuals working in agriculture or fisheries or those licensed to practice small scale transportation, land or sea, against a small fee or general expenses or those registered with the authorities concerned of such activities or works.

The Chairman may exempt the small traders and handicraftsmen from registration as per the terms and conditions they may decide.

Article (8)

The Chairman shall, after approval of the Board of Directors, issue a decision specifying the enterprises banned from registration in the Register and the other enterprises that may not be registered before satisfying specific conditions and procedures.

Article (9)

Registration application shall be submitted to the Department by the applicant or his legal representative on the form prepared for this purpose together with the statements and documents the Department may determine. The Applicant shall be issued a receipt indicating receipt of the application, date of



submission and the attachments.

The Department may request any statements or documents it may deem necessary to decide on the registration of the application.

Article (10)

The Department shall examine the application for registration in the register after satisfying the required statements and documents.

The Department must decide on the application, by either accepting or rejecting it, within not more than five (5) working days from the date of submission after satisfying all the required statements and documents.

In the event of rejection, the decision must be justifiable.

In absence of a decision after the elapse of the term referred to in the first paragraph of this Article, the decision regarding the application shall be deemed accepted.

The registered enterprise shall not commence the activities before satisfying the other requirements of the Authority.

Article (11)

The Applicant for registration in the Register shall be notified of the rejection decision of his application at the address recorded in the application. The concerned applicant may appeal the rejection decision to the Chairman within thirty (30) days from the date of the rejection notice citing the grounds for the appeal and attaching the supporting documents thereon together with a copy of the appealed decision.

Article (12)

The Chairman shall consider the appeal and decide thereon, by either accepting or rejecting it, within not more than thirty (30) days from the date of submission of the appeal. The concerned applicant shall be notified of the result of the appeal.

In absence of a decision after the elapse of the term referred to in the first paragraph of this Article, the decision shall be deemed rejected.

In all cases, the decision of the Chairman in the appeal shall be final.

Article (13)

Registration in the Register shall be renewed every five (5) years. The renewal application shall be submitted by the concerned at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiry date provided that the terms and conditions are met and the prescribed fees are paid.

Article (14)

The registration fees in the register shall be determined by a decision from the Chairman.

Chapter III

Obligations of the Enterprises Registered in the Register

Article (15)

The enterprises registered in the Register shall observe the following:

1. Provide the Department with the statements and documents it may require within the prescribed time.
2. Provide the Department with any change or modification in the statements recorded in the Register within not more than thirty (30) days from such change or modification.

The Department shall record the new statements

on the same page of the Register indicating the date of change application and supporting documents.

Chapter IV

Delisting from the Register

Article (16)

The Department shall delist the enterprise from the register in the following cases:

1. Upon the concerned person request.
2. The material statements or documents attached to the registration application are found to be incorrect and the registration was made thereon.
3. Cancellation of the license of the business of the enterprise.
4. Dissolution or liquidation of the company or closure of the branch or end of the company for any reason.
5. Renewal of the registration is not made on the date prescribed by the Law and the elapse of more than ninety (90) days from the prescribed date for renewal without submitting an application therefor despite the notification of the concerned person.

Article (17)

The Department may delist the enterprise in the following cases:

1. Carrying out an activity which may not be registered in the register save after meeting the specific terms and conditions referred to in Article 8 of this Regulation.
2. The enterprise ceases to carry out the activity registered in the Register for not less than one year. In the event that the enterprise ceases to carry out one of the activities, the delisting shall be limited to the activity alone.
3. Failure to carry out the registered activity for not less than one year from the date of registration.
4. Breach of any of the obligations provided for in Article 15 of this Regulation.
5. Failure to observe the Omanization ratio specified by the Authority.
6. Expiry of the usufruct agreement or lease contract concluded with the Authority, Developer or the Main Operator.

Delisting in the cases contained in clauses 1 to 5 of this Article shall be made after notifying the concerned person of the breach and specifying a term not exceeding sixty (60) days to rectify the breach and the elapse of the term without doing so.

Article (18)

Delisting of the enterprise from the register shall not entail the end of its juristic personality and shall not prejudice the rights of the third parties.

In all cases, the concerned person may not dispose of the enterprise before meeting all the obligations in the Sultanate.

Article (19)

The delisting decision of the enterprise from the register shall be published in the manner the Department may determine.

Article (20)

The delisted enterprise shall not apply for reinstatement before the elapse of three (3) years from the date of delisting unless the Board of Directors otherwise determines.



Establishment of a commercial registration department for traders and companies wishing to operate in the Zone



Renewal of registration in the register is every 5 years



Decision No. 322 /2015

Issuing the Regulation organizing the urban planning and building permits at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

In pursuance to Royal Decree No. 119/2011 establishing the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm and issuing the Zone's Articles and Articles of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm issued in pursuance to Royal Decree No 79/2013;

Royal Decree No. 44/2014 lifting the capacity of a public utility from some of the schemes within the scheme of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm;

Approval of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm in the Board's third meeting held on 16 June 2014;

And on the basis of public interest,

It has been decided

Article One

The attached Regulation shall apply to regulating the urban planning and building permits at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

Article Two

There shall be abolished everything that contravenes this Decision, the Regulation attached thereto or contradicts with its provisions.

Article Three

This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be effective from the date following the date of publishing.

Issued on: 21 Ramadhan 1436hijri

Corresponding to: 8 June 2015

Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri
Chairman of the Board of Directors



The Regulation organizing the urban planning and building permits at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

Article (1)

In the application of this Regulation, the following words and terms shall have the meanings assigned thereto them unless the context otherwise requires:

Authority: The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm.

Zone: The Special Economic Zone located in the State of Duqm for the purposes of establishing the economic and service projects and other projects located within the boundaries and location shown in the Scheme attached to Royal Decree No. 119/2011 and Royal Decree No. 44/2014 referred to above.

Board: Board of Directors of the Authority.

Chairman: Chairman of the Board.

Enterprises: The Enterprises licensed to be established at the Zone, whether in the form of individual institutions, firms, company branches or foreign institutions or the licensed professional or handicraft activities to be practiced at the Zone.

Economic Activity: Any commercial, industrial, agricultural, tourism, real estate, media, service or professional activity, and any other activities required for the work within the Zone that does not contravene with the laws in force in the Sultanate.

Main Operator or Developer: The body responsible for the management and operation of the strategic facilities at the Zone or the development of part of the Zone thereof.

Article (2)

Provisions of this Regulation shall apply to all the lands, buildings and reconstruction projects at the Zone.

Article (3)

The Main Operator or Developer shall assume the preparation of the general scheme of the site specified in the development contract. The general scheme comprises the organizational schemes at all levels as follows:

1. The detailed survey.
2. The general organizational scheme.
3. The detailed organizational scheme.

Article (4)

The following shall be observed in the organizational schemes referred to in Article (3) of this Regulation:

1. To be in accordance with the vision of the Authority and the approved planning standards; to be prepared by qualified and specialized engineering companies and consultancy offices licensed to operate in the Sultanate.
2. To be prepared in accordance with the Geographical Information System (GIS) and Engineering Drawing System (AutoCAD); using the World Geodetic System (WGS84) adopted in the Sultanate in the form of paper and digital maps.
3. To be prepared in conformity with the environmental impact assessment study and the legislations in force at the Zone.
4. Take into account the technical requirements for buildings and other prescribed specifications established by a decision from the Chairman.

Article (5)

The detailed survey of the site must include the following:

1. Detailed description of the site in terms of

Topographic and Hydrologic nature and geophysical characteristics of the soil and its spacial characteristics.

2. Detailed description of the relationship between the site and its neighborhood, statement of the basic external services, including road, supply and distribution lines of water, electricity, communications, sanitation network, water drainage channels and ground communications networks.
3. Prepare a map showing the outside boundaries of the site, contour lines, main connection points with the basic basic structure networks and its external supply facilities and level of the road at the entrance.

Article (6)

The Main Operator or Developer shall assume all the works and studies necessary to prepare the detailed survey. The Authority shall provide to the Main Operator or Developer the required data and information and facilitate the entry procedures to the site.

Article (7)

The Main Operator or Developer must submit the detailed survey report to the Authority within the agreed deadline and pay the prescribed fee.

The Authority shall issue its decision on the report referred to above within (15) fifteen business days from the date of receipt of the report, and in case of elapse of the said period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision is deemed as "acceptable" and in case of rejection the decision must be justified.

Article (8)

In case the detailed survey report has been approved, the Main Operator or Developer shall undertake the preparation of the general organizational scheme of the site, which must include the following:

Legislation stimulate investment in the Zone and lay the foundations of reconstruction and project implementation



a.	Scheme for different land uses , shall take into account determining the sites, spaces and passages to be allocated and reserved for public use purposes, including roads at the various organizational levels, pedestrians, parking for different vehicle categories, public utilities, passages for networks and basic basic structure (Main and sub), urban spaces, green spaces, places of worship and social services centers. Percentage of these uses compared to the total space of the site must be determined. There shall also be taken into account, determination of the spaces allocated for different economic uses, including the areas allocated for residential, commercial, residential and/or commercial, offices, tourism, warehouses and industrial uses. The percentage of all these uses compared to the total space of the site must be determined.
b.	Guide for the provisions for the reconstruction proposed for each use , which must include the following: 1. The minimum spaces of the plots of lands, length of the façades of the plots of lands overlooking the road leading to them, their connect points with the basic basic structure networks that serve the site. 2. Reconstruction density based on the minimum regress, maximum percentage allowed for the building thereon, number of floors of the building and the maximum height of the buildings. 3. Standard ratios for the spaces to be allocated as parking lots for the various categories of vehicles. 4. Benchmarking for the needs of the electric power, drinking water, fire-fighting water and irrigation water on the basis of the plot of land. 5. Strategy of urban nature, instructions for the architectural style and coordination of the sites emanating therefrom.
c.	Site development and management plan , including the development phases, implementation timetable, entire needs of the electric power and drinking water, fire-fighting and irrigation water, requirements for the site management and services provided to the users within its borders, management and maintenance requirements of the public utilities, lands and common use facilities.

Article (9)

The Main Operator or Developer must submit the general organizational scheme to the Authority within the agreed deadline and pay the prescribed fee.

The Authority shall issue its decision on the scheme referred to above within (15) fifteen days from the date of receipt of the scheme, and in case of elapse of the said period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision is deemed as "acceptable" and in case of rejection the decision must be justified.

Article (10)

In case the general organizational scheme has been approved, the Main Operator or Developer shall undertake the preparation of the general organizational schemes of the lands, which must include the terms and conditions of the organization and reconstruction in a specific and detailed form separately for each plot of land, specifically the following:

- Coordinates of the plot of land, in accordance with the adopted geographic coordinate system, area and length of the four façades of the plot of land.
- The type of use of the plot of land, the main and sub buildings on the land and percentages thereof.
- The level of the building compared to the road that leads to the plot of land, axes and interconnection points with the surrounding roads network and basic structure networks that serve it.
- The maximum limit of percentage and percentage of the building storeys, the maximum height and minimum regresses of the façade, front and rear.
- The parking area for the various categories of vehicles, determined on the basis of the area of the building and nature of its use.
- The restrictions relating to the identity and architectural style which determine the external façades of the buildings, fences, specifications and colors of the materials used and coordination requirements of the site.

Article (11)

The Main Operator or Developer must submit the detailed schemes to the Authority within the deadline agreed upon in the time schedule of the program contained in the development and management scheme of the site and pay the prescribed fee.

The Authority shall issue its decision on the scheme referred to above within (15) fifteen business days from the date of receipt of the scheme, and in case of elapse of the said period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision is deemed as "acceptable" and in case of rejection the decision must be justified.

Article (12)

The Authority may modify the general organizational scheme or the detailed scheme of the site based on the application filed by the concerned body (The Enterprise, Main Operator or Developer) on the form prepared for this purpose, stating the reasons and justifications for the modification. The referred to application must include identification of the elements to be modified, modifications for the work plan and time schedule for the implementation of the development project at the various stages, the additional burdens on the basic structure services and absorptive capacity, the environmental impact assessment therefor and resulting impact of the implementation of the commitments contained in the development and management plan of the site.

The Authority may request the concerned body to provide any documents or data it may deem necessary to decide on the application.

Article (13)

The Authority may split any land, merge two or more lands in a single plot of land based on an application filed by the concerned body (The Enterprise, Main Operator or Developer) on the form prepared for this purpose, stating therein the reasons and justifications, subject to provision of a detailed scheme of the plot of land developed according to Article (10) of this Regulation, in such a way that does not contradict with the provisions of the regulation and reconstruction scheme prescribed within the general organizational scheme of the site. In all cases, every plot of land must be situated on the road that give access thereto with an entrance of not less than (12) twelve meters and fixed points to link it with the basic basic structure that serves the site.

Article (14)

The application referred thereto in Articles (12 & 13) of this Regulation shall be submitted to the Authority, attaching therewith the required documents and data and prove of payment of the prescribed fee. The Authority must take its decision thereon within fifteen (15) business days from the date of submission of the application. In case of no decision being taken thereon after the elapse of the said period, the decision shall be deemed as "acceptable" and in case of rejection, the decision must be justified.

Article (15)

No building or construction project shall be initiated at the Zone except after obtaining a permit from the Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

Article (16)

The application for obtaining a building permit shall be submitted to the Authority on the form prepared for this purpose, attaching therewith the original copies of the documents and schemes of the building and the other documents specified in the application



form and prove of payment of the prescribed fee.

Article (17)

The schemes of building attached to the application for obtaining a building permit must be approved by a company or an engineering office certified to operate in the Sultanate and approved by the Public Authority of Civil Defense and Ambulance.

Article (18)

The building schemes must adhere to the organizational schemes at the various levels, the architectural and technical conditions of buildings and other prescribed specifications established by a decision of the Chairman. The concerned bodies must submit executive summaries showing the extent of adherence by the designs to the required conditions and observance of the percentages and standard figures contained in the prescribed organizational schemes.

Article (19)

The Authority shall review the building permit application and take a decision thereon, either by accepting or rejecting the application, within (15) fifteen business days from the date of submission of the application, attaching therewith the required documents and in case of rejection the decision must be justified.

Article (20)

The Applicant for the permit shall be notified of the rejection decision of his application at the address recorded in the permit application. The concerned body may contest the rejection decision by submitting an application thereon to the Chairman within (60) sixty days from the date of notification of the rejection of his application, stating therein the reasons for the appeal, attaching therewith the supporting documents and a copy of the contested decision.

Article (21)

The appeal shall be considered and a decision be taken thereon, either by accepting or rejecting, within not more than (30) thirty days from the date of the submission thereof and notify the concerned body of the result of the appeal. In case of elapse of this period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision shall be deemed as "acceptable".

In all cases, the decision of the Chairman on the appeal is considered final.

Article (22)

The building permit shall be valid for one year, renewable for a similar period or periods based on an application filed by the concerned body, attaching therewith the prove of payment of the prescribed fee.

Article (23)

The construction Licensee must appoint a company or an engineering office certified to operate in the Sultanate in order to supervise the implementation of the construction works, ensure adherence to the prescribed license schemes and construction conditions.

Article (24)

The following works shall not be undertaken except after obtaining a license from the Authority, in accordance with the conditions and procedures established by a decision from the Chairman:

1. Excavations on the public highway or the surroundings thereof in order to have access to basic structure services for the project.
2. Excavations outside the borders of the land licensed for the utilization thereof.

Article (25)

It is prohibited to leave any rubbles and construction materials or disposed thereof at sites other than the designated ones that have been determined by the Authority.

Article (26)

In case of violating the provisions of Articles (21 & 22) of this Regulation, the Authority may take one of the following two actions:

1. Obligate the violator to remove the causes of the violation and correct the situation within the deadline to be determined by the Authority.
2. Remove the causes of the violation and correct the situation at the expense of the violator and obligate him to bear all the expenses incurred by the Authority in this connection.

In all cases, the Authority may impose an administrative fine of not more than OMR (100,000) Hundred Thousand Omani Rials for each day of violation on the violator after notifying him of the need to remove the violation and the expiration of the deadline therefor.

Article (27)

The concerned body must stop the excavation works, construction or reconstruction immediately in case that it has found traces of monuments at the site and must notify the Authority thereof.

Article (28)

The concerned body must, after completion of the construction works, submit an application to the Authority to obtain a constructions completion certificate on the form prepared for this purpose, attaching therewith a report prepared by the company or the engineering office that supervised the implementation of the construction works confirming commitment to the licensing conditions and other conditions and specifications determined by the Authority concerning the use of the building or nature of the economic activity intended to be practiced thereon.

The Authority may request the documents and data it deems necessary and carry out the necessary inspections to enable it to decide on the said application.

No building shall be occupied except after obtaining the mentioned certificate.

Article (29)

The Authority shall study the building permit application within (10) ten business days from the date of satisfying all the documents and carry out the required inspections. In case of elapse of the mentioned period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision is deemed as "acceptable" and in case of rejection the decision must be justified.

Article (30)

The Applicant shall be notified of the decision thereon at the address recorded in the licensing application within (5) five business days and the concerned body may contest the decision in case of rejection before the Chairman within (60) sixty days from the date of notification or the date he has become aware for sure of the rejection of his application, stating therein the reasons for the appeal and the supporting documents thereof.

Article (31)

The appeal shall be reviewed and decided thereon, either by accepting or rejecting, within not more than (30) thirty days from the date of submission and notify the concerned body of the result of the appeal. In case of elapse of the said period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision is deemed as "rejection". In all cases, the decision of the Chairman on the appeal is final.



Organizational schemes are in accordance with SEZAD vision and approved planning standards



There shall be no building or construction project in the Zone without a license from SEZAD



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



*The diversity of
tourist, commercial
and industrial areas
and the continuous
work round the
clock in the sites
makes you feel you
are in a city eager to
receive its visitors.*

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Welcome in Duqm

The First thing to grab your attention as you disembark from the plane, visiting Duqm for the first time, is the wonderful weather in the city that lies on the Arabian ocean and the Indian sea. Duqm provides excellent temperate weather with temperatures less than 30 C even in the summer, which makes it ideal destination for those looking for tranquility and peace of mind, away from the hustle and bustle of big cities and the hectic means of transport.

Duqm today is not as it were four years ago. The movement of construction, which has been going on in the city several years ago changed many features. On the road from the airport via the coastal road, which takes you to the hotels located off the sea or across the three-lane road to Duqm Port, you will find a number of projects some of which are about to complete while some others are witnessing sustained movement to complete as schedules. Other projects are still in the hands of the consulting firms that design them before bidding. Therefore, you find yourself amid a mega workshop and projects that spread over the various districts of Duqm.

Despite this perpetual motion and planned heavy industry projects in Duqm, you will find many places that provide calm, comfort and relaxation away from the noise of the factories. The urban planning of the city seeks to make it appeal for work and residence so heavy and petrochemical industries projects do not affect the calm most people are looking for. There are resorts, hotels, natural parks and the blue and quietude of the sea that make you feel like you are in a city with no heavy industries. Perhaps the distribution of the eight regions that make up the comprehensive plan for the Zone may contribute to achieving this goal.

This diversity of tourist, commercial and industrial areas and this continuous work around the clock in many sites makes you feel you are in a city eager to receive its visitors to tell them "Welcome to Duqm". After we celebrated in the opening of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Duqm Façade City and early operation of Duqm Airport last year, we celebrated the opening of Park Inn Hotel & Resort at the beginning of this year. With the increase in construction and reconstruction movement, we will find ourselves celebrating the opening of many projects to write a new future for a city that dreams to be among the best destinations for work, accommodation and recreation.