

A Quarterly magazine issued by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm
3rd Issue - January 2016

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Duqm
Economist



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Long-term Goals

Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) focuses on corporate social responsibility (CSR) in its three dimensions, namely humans, environment and legislation, a part of its main objectives to develop Al-Wusta Region, improve living conditions in Duqm and provide job opportunities for the citizens. This urged SEZAD and the companies operating in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) pay special attention to the programs relating to education, training and qualification of young people to work in the various projects in SEZD.

During the past four years, SEZAD has been promoting the CSR culture among the operating companies in SEZD and advancing this concept to keep up with the aspirations of the people of Wilayat of Duqm in particular and Al-Wusta Governorate in general. Today, as we asset that CSR is a major subject for SEZAD, I am pleased to announce that there are 29 young men and women from Duqm studying at private universities and colleges in the Sultanate for a bachelor degree in specialized technical areas with funding from CSR programs implemented by SEZAD and companies operating in SEZD. This is in addition to the students who are studying at government expense and we look forward to their being within few years among the Omani cadres working in SEZD. I would like also to commend the PDO initiative in collaboration with Oman Dry Dock Company to provide 300 training opportunities combined with employment during 2015 and 2016 and the launch of Duqm Training Initiative in November 2015. The latter was the result of cooperation between SEZAD, Takatuf Oman, Duqm Refinery Company, Duqm Petroleum Depots Company and the German University for Technology in Oman. These training programs qualify young people to enter the labor market with greater confidence.

Attention to CSR is not limited to educational and training programs, but also includes various areas of life. There are programs in the sectors of culture, environment, tourism, sports, rural women and a number of other sectors. We believe that the programs and activities implemented so far reflect the aspirations of SEZAD and the companies operating in SEZD that the people of Duqm benefit from the various projects related to the development of the Wilayat of Duqm.

Given the importance of CSR in building capacity and taking advantage of the available potentials, SEZAD has started to prepare the regulatory framework of CSR Fund, which aims to regulate the funding provided by the companies operating in SEZD for various sectors and enhance spending efficiency in this area. We expect that the Fund would contribute to the implementation of specific CSR projects in the future.

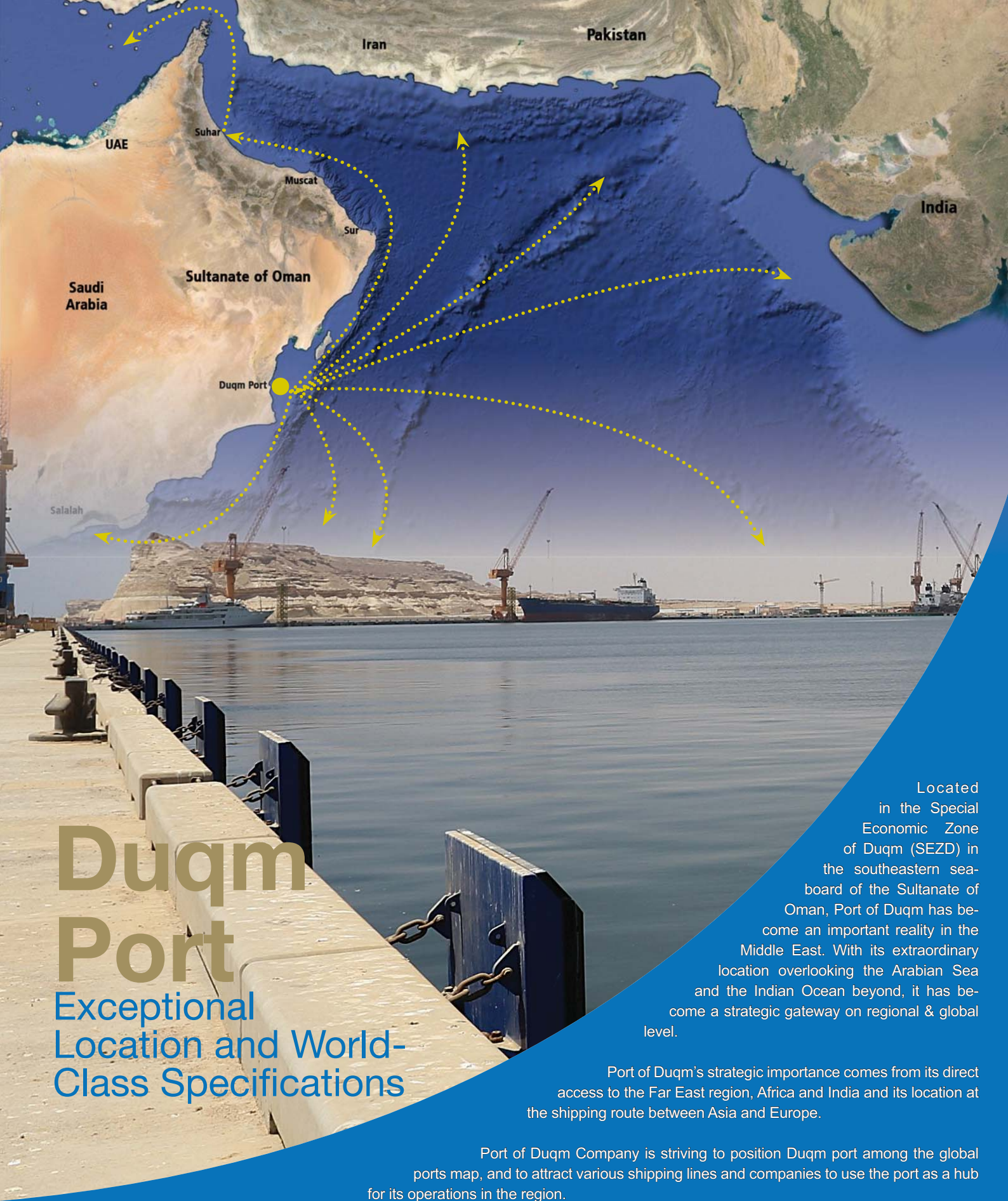
All these efforts target at creating a new generation to contribute to making Duqm future to which we aspire.



Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



During the past four years, SEZAD has been promoting the CSR culture among the operating companies in SEZD and advancing this concept to keep up with the aspirations of the people of Wilayat of Duqm in particular and Al-Wusta Governorate in general



Duqm Port

Exceptional Location and World-Class Specifications

Located in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm (SEZD) in the southeastern seaboard of the Sultanate of Oman, Port of Duqm has become an important reality in the Middle East. With its extraordinary location overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean beyond, it has become a strategic gateway on regional & global level.

Port of Duqm's strategic importance comes from its direct access to the Far East region, Africa and India and its location at the shipping route between Asia and Europe.

Port of Duqm Company is striving to position Duqm port among the global ports map, and to attract various shipping lines and companies to use the port as a hub for its operations in the region.



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Duqm Development Company (SAOC)

Duqm Frontier Town (DFT) formed an integral part of Oman's government vision for the development of Duqm Special Economic Zone as a major port and industrial hub, therefore Duqm Development Company SAOC was formed to develop DFT. DDC is a joint venture between Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN) and Oman Drydock Company (ODC) in which each owns 50% of the shares.



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The magazine welcomes
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academic studies

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Duqm Police Compound ... New Addition to Services in SEZAD

Yahiya Al-Jabri: the Compound reflects government's attention to deliver services to citizens wherever they may be



Opening Duqm Police Complex

The Compound includes security and customs facilities, immigration, residence, civil status, traffic, and civil defense, and ambulance services

Duqm -  :

On 20 October 2015, Royal Oman Police (ROP) celebrated the opening of Duqm Police Compound and graduation of new police recruits.

The celebration was under the patronage of H.E. Yahiya bin Said Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chairperson. The audience included Lieutenant General Hassan bin Mohsen Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, H.E. Dr. Ali bin Masaud Al-Sunaidi, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Harrasi, President of the Public Authority for Radio and Television. A number of members of the Shura and State Councils along with their excellencies, senior ROP and Sultan Armed Forces officers and other security agencies, elders and notables of the Region, directors of government departments and citizens of the Wilayat of Duqm also graced the event.

The ceremony began with unveiling the commemorative plaque to mark the official opening of the Compound. Then H.E. Al-Jabri and the audience witnessed the graduation of the new police recruits. The ceremony began with performing the military salute for the patron of the celebration, and then the queue commander approached the patron for permission to inspect the queue. Then, the line of graduates moved in front of the podium in a military parade marching slowly then nor-

mally. Afterwards, the patron delivered proficiency awards for the top graduates.

In a press statement, H.E. Yahiya bin Said Al-Jabri stated: "I am pleased to welcome you today in SEZAD while Oman is preparing for the celebration of the Forty-Fifth National Day. I would like to congratulate His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said -may God protect him – and express my thanks to him for his endeavors in the service of this dear country. The achievements of the Sultanate under the reign of His Majesty embraced all walks of life, and embodied the cohesion between the leadership and the people towards the elevation, pride and glory of Oman.

H.E. Al-Jabri stressed that the opening of the ROP Compound is an embodiment of the government's attention to the various governorates of the Sultanate and delivery of services to citizens wherever they are.

Vital Project

The ROP Duqm Compound in Al-Wusta Governorate is one of the vital projects implemented by ROP to provide the best police services to citizens and residents and to keep pace with urbanization and current and future population growth. The Compound includes security and customs facilities, immigration, residence, civil status, traffic, and civil defense, and ambulance services. Moreover, ROP Duqm Compound shall maintain security and public order, protect lives, money



and properties, and ensure the safety and tranquility for all citizens and residents of the region. It may expand later to meet the needs in the future.

Public Security Department

Public Security Department provides a variety of services, most notably receipt and handling all traffic and criminal communications, conduct vehicle and security patrols, security coverage in various celebrations and events. They also include activating the relationship between the police and people, catching offenders and outlaws and taking all legal procedures against them, and taking all measures to reduce crime and traffic accidents, and providing security escort for companies' trucks according to the operations orders in this regard.

Services Compound

Services Compound provides services in the field of civil status, immigration, residence, and traffic. It has the latest electronic devices to facilitate the completion of citizens'

and residents' transactions. It includes three departments: Department of Civil Status, Passport and Residence Department, and Department of Traffic Services. The Civil Status Department issues and renews national IDs and residence cards for residents. It also issues birth and death certificates, and receives and takes action on reports of loss of documents issued by the General Directorate of Civil Status, or one of its departments in the governorates.

Passport and Residence Department issues, renews and replaces Omani passports and visas. It issues, stamps and renews residence cards for expatriates, and extends visas in accordance with the regulations. It receives communications of loss or damage of foreign passports and coordinates with the relevant stakeholders. It issues land permits for foreigners residing in the Sultanate to cross the legal land checkpoints.

Traffic Services Department issues and renews driving teaching permits and tests applicants for renewal of driving licenses of vehicles. It issues, renews and replaces driv-

Action
taken to re-
duce crime
and traffic
accidents,
and bring
offenders
and out-
laws to
justice





Technical inspection
of vehicles

**Providing
Investigation
Department with
the latest
equipment to help
discover
crimes
speedily
and effi-
ciently**

ing licenses in accordance with established procedures. It issues the licenses for driving coaches and reviews the requests to open driving schools and other licenses in accordance with the procedures followed. It technically supervises driving schools according to the approved conditions. It performs technical inspection of vehicles (new registration, periodic checks, incidents, etc.). It issues the permits to restrict color, engine, platform, body or any part of the vehicle contrary to what is stated in the vehicle specifications and registration. It provides technical advice in the field of vehicle inspection and give technical opinion upon request. It also provides technical opinion with respect to the terms of durability, security, specifications and standards adopted for vehicles. It registers, renews and transfers vehicle licenses and moves to examine company equipment not allowed on public roads to corporate sites.

The Department performs technical inspection of vehicles, renews driving licenses and registers vehicles. It has advanced equipment to inspect the vehicles electronically. The Compound has also an office to print vehicle plates and vehicle insurance office.

Research and Investigation Department

Duqm Police Compound includes also Research and Investigation Department provided with the latest equipment in the field of investigation that help discover crimes with all efficiency and speed. It also has a criminal

laboratory and a number of offices to investigate, and a miniature criminal laboratory in addition to other administrative offices. These laboratories help in expeditious completion of tests that lead to speedy discovery of crimes.

The Department also includes two divisions, one for research and the other for investigation. The first searches for perpetrators of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Police Station, searches for suspects or fugitives, collects information on crimes with unknown perpetrators, monitors suspects and suspicious places, and collects information that will help prevent the occurrence of crimes and discover perpetrators.

Investigation Division moves to the crime scene as soon as possible, takes the necessary procedures, collects everything related to crime and benefit the investigation, take necessary measures to preserve evidence, completes the course of the proceedings, and follows up technical and medical reports. It informs the parties about their cases, responds to their inquiries, and sends the case file to the Public Prosecution.

Accidents Department

This Department has a number of administrative offices to complete the transactions of all clients on computers computer to complete accidents procedures with ease. Its tasks includes outlining serious and ambiguous traffic accidents that take place in the jurisdiction and end incidents by transferring them to the insurance companies for repairs





and some to the public prosecution. It monitors works and transfers on the roads and their compliance with traffic specifications and permits. It makes sure that the fees of offences and insurance reports are paid. It visits the injured of traffic accidents within the jurisdiction area to check them, completes the procedures relating to the incident, and takes the statements of the parties involved.

Duqm Customs Department

Duqm Customs Department inspects and previews the parcels sent to the airport, port, dry dock and companies in the industrial zone.

It also releases dry dock exports, dry dock manufacture imports, consignments of dry dock by land or ships, as well as temporary exports of maintenance of dry dock, as well as the clearance of consignments to and from Duqm Airport.

It also oversees the entrance of petroleum products imported to the dry dock, transfer of protection weapons to/from ships in addition to the moving to ships at anchor, and issues sailing certificates upon their departure.

Civil Defense and Ambulance

The establishment of Civil Defense and Ambulance building keeps pace with the in-

creasing growth and great development in various urban and industrial areas in Duqm, as well as to provide measures to ensure prevention and reduce risks by providing it with the latest devices and mechanisms and provision of qualified staff capable of dealing with various risks.

The building aims to protect the population and ensure the safety of transport means, national wealth, facilities, property, institutions, installations, buildings and projects of various hazards. This embodies the pursuit of the Public Authority for Civil Defense and Ambulance to extend its services through opening new centers. This helps it to perform the works assigned to them in the areas of firefighting and rescue on land and water, providing medical care for the injured by ambulance services as well as search and rescue operations and responding to hazardous materials incidents.

The building also offers fire prevention services through taking action and setting requirements that prevent fires, mitigate the impact of fires in all installations and ensure implementation of and adherence to them according to the governing instructions, regulations and laws and commensurate with the nature of the possible hazards. This is in addition to its awareness-raising role.

Duqm Customs Department inspects and pre-views the parcels sent to the airport, port, dry dock and companies in the industrial zone

Civil Defense and Ambulance building keeps pace with the increasing growth and development in urban and industrial areas in Duqm





الدقم Duqm

هيئة المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة
Special Economic Zone Authority

Sultanate of Oman

سلطنة عُمان



One-Stop Shop

Your Gate to Investment at SEZAD

One-stop Shop is the department concerned with registering investors and issuing required different licenses, permits and approvals. One-stop Shop provides the following services:

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Preparing usufruct and development agreements

Providing all types of visa-related services

Completing rent contracts and regulating the relation between the owners of the property and the tenants

Issuing municipal license and construction licenses

Commercial, industrial, tourism and environmental registration

Preparing technical reports and issuing approvals



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Engineers following the proceeding of work at surface water drainage project

Tenders Committee at SEZAD award projects of OMR 176,000,000

Completion of remaining packages and duplication of main road in the city center

**Settle-
ment of
land in the
industrial
zone and
establish
the public
landfill of
hazardous
and non-
hazardous
waste**

Duqm - :

Last year, Tenders Committee at SEZAD awarded project worth OMR 176,000,000 within SEZAD efforts to complete the infrastructure projects for SEZD.

The Committee held eight major meetings during which it adopted 40 subjects: approval of tenders, issuance of variation orders, adoption of technical analysis offers reports, extension of period of advisory services, amendment of implementation period of a project and the study of one tender.

Port Projects

As part of its efforts to complete the implementation of the remaining packages at Duqm Port, it assigned tender No. (17/2013) on infrastructure for the commercial pier - customs station (third package) with a total value of OMR 77.1 million. It also awarded Tender No. (18/2013) on infrastructure of government pier (IP4) worth OMR 55.4 million, and Tender No. (20/2013) on settlement and discharge of surface water for the logistics area (sixth package) worth 1.4 million. It also issued variation order No. (3) on construction of infrastructure for Duqm Port (Phase I), main roads and water drainage channel worth OMR 1.2 million.

Road Projects

The projects awarded by the Tender Committee at SEZAD in 2015 included three tenders on roads and associated works. The first for duplication and development of the main road in Sai (city center) at a cost of OMR 13.8 million. The second is Tender No. 4/2015 for the implementation of road sub-links 2 and 3 in the overall plan of SEZD at a cost of OMR 3.1. The third is Tender No. 26/2015 for the implementation of the land settlement on road 2 and 3.

Urban Planning and Municipal Services

In city planning and municipal services sector, SEZAD awarded two tenders worth OMR 5.3 million, one for the settlement of land in the industrial zone (north side) and the second for the implementation of roads and infrastructure facilities for the construction project of 150 housing units.

Environmental Sector

In the environmental sector, SEZAD awarded two tenders: Tender No. (15/2014) for construction of the spillway in Wadi Dangert at a cost of OMR 9.2 million, while the second for design and construction of public landfill of hazardous and non-hazardous waste worth OMR 7.7 million.

130

CSR Programs in SEZD




An event under the «Entrepreneurship» program, which targeted 600 male and female students in Duqm schools

Duqm -  :

Since the inception of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) in 2011 so far, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) implemented about 130 programs of corporate social responsibility (CSR), in addition to Oman Dry Dock Company, Duqm Refinery Company, Duqm Port Company, Duqm Development Company and other companies operating in SEZD.

The implemented programs were varied and addressed some areas related to the local community. Statistics indicates that education, training and job creation topped the list of programs implemented in pursuit by SEZAD and the companies operating in SEZD to qualify the young men and women of Wilayat of Duqm and the rest of Wilayats in Al-Wusta Region to work in the existing and new companies to be established in SEZD.

According to the statistics, 29 grants for the Duqm graduates of General Education Diploma were funded for undergraduate study in private universities and colleges in the Sultanate. This program shall provide a number of local cadres to work in SEZD.


29 undergraduate grants in private universities and colleges in the Sultanate

300 training opportunities in 2015 and 2016 and contribution to supporting SMEs

Sponsorship of national events, economic seminars, and educational and sports events and the promotion of poetry reading evenings

Instilling environmental awareness in the community and implementation of an annual campaign to clean up the beaches



A group of students participating in the «Entrepreneurship» program

A variety of programs for education and training

The programs implemented in the areas of education and training programs included the establishment of the Training Center in Duqm within the Duqm Training Initiative, which aims to train a number of job seekers and qualify them for work both in and outside SEZD. It also included the construction of a Quran school in coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs at a cost of OMR 35 thousand provided by Duqm Quarries and Crushers Company. Sponsored was also the Challenge Program for the students of Al-Wusta Governorate for (90) students aged (15-17 years) at a cost of OMR 20 thousand provided by Duqm Refinery Company along with setting up umbrellas to some schools in Duqm in coordination with the Ministry of Education. The activities also included the provision of the school bag "Back to School" for Duqm schools during the academic years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, organizing an innovation camp for more than 600 male and female students from Duqm schools in cooperation with Injaz Oman, and implementation of a training program for 200 women in the field of computer skills.

Educational Events

SEZAD and the companies operating in SEZD sponsored some educational events, such as Teacher's Day, International Day of Mathematics in 2012 and 2013, and the ceremony for honoring the outstanding students at Duqm schools in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. They also provided support for some summer centers in schools, workshop by the Caledonian College

of Engineering for students of Duqm schools in 2013 and 2014, sponsorship of mathematics and statistics events in 2013, and the drawing contest for school students along with providing snacks and prizes.

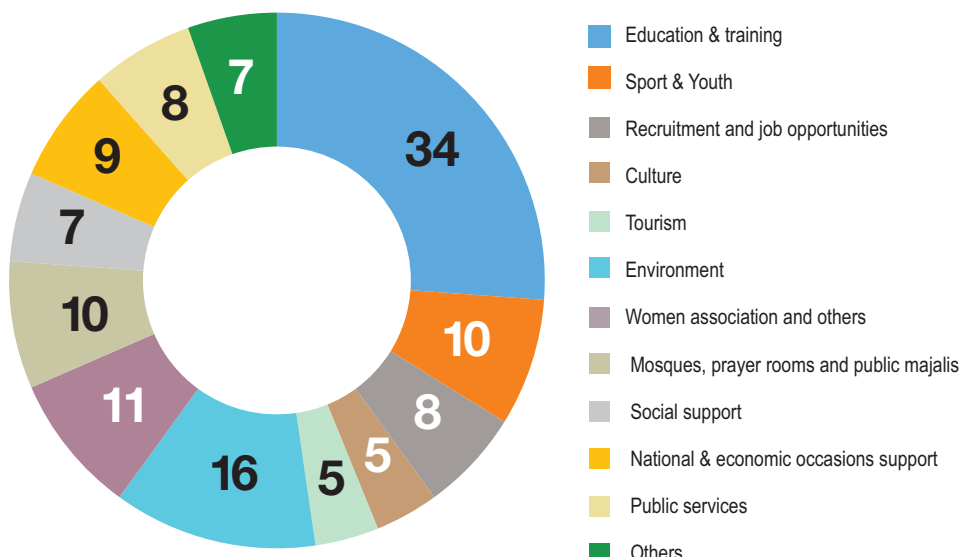
Database for Jobseekers

As part of the interest in providing employment opportunities for young people, established were a database for the jobseekers and a list of vacancies at the companies in SEZD along with coordination with the specialists at the Ministry of Manpower to take inventory of the number of job seekers in Duqm to provide employment, training or qualification opportunities. There was a provision of 300 training opportunities for appointment, including 150 training opportunities during 2015 and 150 in 2016. There was also cooperation with Bank Muscat to hold workshops for SMEs related to business development and support SMEs through sponsorship of Business Opportunities Conference held in 2014.

Sports Field

In the sports domain, CSR sponsored and supported some activities and events, such as preparing a football and volleyball fields for Ras Madrasah team, rehabilitation of the football pitch in Sai, and rehabilitation of the football pitch for Dhohr sports team. Provided was also support for the organization of the 57th World Scout Jamboree on the air 18th World Scout Jamboree on-line in 2014, cross-country forum in Al-Wusta Region in 2013, and financial support to the Walking Program during the World Walking Day 2015.

Social Responsibility Programs Executed in Duqm Economic Zone, up to the end of 2015, in terms of sectors





Duqm Forum: Society and Economy devoted one of its sessions to the theme of CSR

Instilling awareness of the importance of the environment

In the environment sector, SEZAD and the companies operating in SEZD sought to instill environmental awareness in the community. Duqm witnesses annual campaigns to clean up the town and the beaches on the Omani Environment Day, which falls on 8 January each year. Many companies and government units in Duqm along with schools and people take part in the campaign.

The programs implemented also included planting 30 trees in front of Duqm landfill, financing funds to protect the trees in Ras Madrakah and Dhor villages in 2013, in addition to the implementation of recurring events for cleaning the beach.

Interest in cultural and tourism events

In the cultural field, SEZAD and the companies operating in SEZD have focused on encouraging the organization of poetry reading evenings through supporting the Annual Poetry Festival in Duqm and a series of evenings held in Wilayats of Duqm and Al-Jazer. Provided was also support for the participation of Wilayat of Duqm in Salalah Tourism Festival in 2015, sponsorship of Discover Duqm Exhibition in 2012, organizing tours for school students to introduce them to the hotel sector, and facilitating the display of handicraft products to the people of the Wilayat of Duqm in Crowne Plaza Hotel.

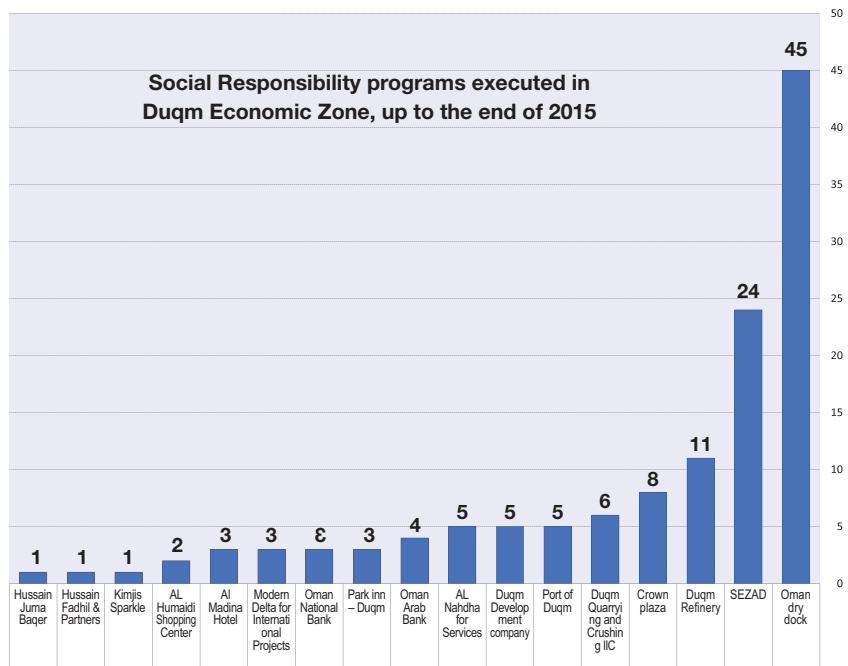
Enhancing the services provided to the community

Support was provided for the maintenance of large and small mosques, majlis, and Iftar pro-



Girls participating in the «Entrepreneurship» program

Social Responsibility programs executed in Duqm Economic Zone, up to the end of 2015



grams. This also included construction of rooms with their annexes for the disabled in Duqm in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development, sponsorship of the events dedicated to autistic patients in 2012, and participation in the contributions of Dar Al-Ataa to the beneficiaries in the Wilayat.


Omani Women's Association in Duqm received good support from the Local Community Committee at SEZAD and the various companies operating in SEZD towards the enrichment of its activities aimed at enhancing the participation of women in social and economic life in the Wilayat. The programs implemented included sponsoring some other areas, such as blood donation campaigns, providing material support to the Traffic Safety Committee in Duqm, sponsoring awareness seminars on maritime safety, and sponsoring national events and economic conferences and seminars held in Duqm. The companies operating in SEZD also paid attention to the provision of equipment and labor on demand to serve the local community in Duqm.

Enhancing women participation in social and economic life and development of services provided to the community

Quantum leap taking place in Duqm ... and we seek that people take advantage of executed projects

 **Duqm - Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi**

His Excellency Sheikh Mohsen bin Hamad Al-Maskari, Wali of Duqm and Chairperson of the Municipal Affairs Committee stressed that Wilayat of Duqm is witnessing a quantum leap in various areas of life and enjoying the achievements of the prosperous reign under the builder of Omani renaissance of Oman His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - may God protect him. "The establishment of SEZAD gave the Wilayat an additional advantage and contributed to the achievement of many gains that but extend to the various Wilayats of Al-Wusta Governorate and even beyond through an ambitious vision to make Duqm an economic resource contributing to the country's economic diversification plan," commenced Al-Maskari.

In an interview with , H.E. Al-Maskari indicted that the mega projects hosted by the Wilayat, such as port, dry dock, refinery, and the airport and other projects planned for the coming years prepare the Wilayat to become a major destination for investors from around the world. Hence the need to activate CSR as a basic pillar through which economic gains of these projects would reflect on the local community," stated Al-Maskari.

"CSR enjoys the interest of various government agencies and companies operating in Duqm. For our part, the Municipal Affairs Committee of Duqm exerts unremitting efforts to convey the proposals of the people of Duqm to the companies operating in

SEZD, coordinate with various government agencies and companies to implement programs that keep pace with the aspirations and needs of the people and follow up government agencies to take the approvals. The Committee also intervenes to resolve any problems facing the implementation of programs funded by companies operating in the Wilayat," added Al-Maskari.





150 housing unit project for the people aimed at developing lifestyle in Duqm

Focus on quality CSR projects that keep pace with the aspirations of the people

Strengthening people's advantage from projects

H.E. Al-Maskari stressed that CSR programs in Duqm aim at strengthening the benefit of Duqm people from the projects taking place in SEZD, stressing at the same time that these projects brought about a quantum leap in the Wilayat whose effects reflected positively on the people.

He pointed out that CSR is not limited to programs and events only, but includes various aspects of life. "Therefore, Municipal Affairs Committee focuses on implementing projects that touch the aspirations of the people and proceed from their actual needs and desires they express at various meetings and through requests they submit," stated Al-Maskari

The Municipal Affairs Committee includes two members from the Municipal Council, four members of the people of Duqm, Director of the municipality and the Wali as head.

Response of Companies

His Excellency Sheikh Mohsen bin Hamad Al-Maskari commended the response of companies operating in SEZD to the proposals of the Municipal Affairs Committee in Duqm. He

said that this response contributed to the implementation of many projects that serve the people of the Wilayat, stressing that the Committee is keen that the programs implemented to serve the people emerge from their needs. Therefore, the programs implemented include various sectors, especially education and training.

Integration of Efforts

He noted in his statement the efforts of the Community Development Committee at SEZAD stating that the community appreciates the programs and events it supervises. He praised the scholarship programs for the students of Duqm, saying that these programs will provide outputs able to contribute to making the future of the Wilayat.

"There is integration in the efforts of the Committee of Municipal Affairs and Community Development the Committee at SEZAD. The two committees do not compete but rather complement efforts to the benefit of and interest of the local community. Deputy Wali of Duqm is a member and vice chairperson of Community Development Committee," added Al-Maskari.

Educational and training programs prepare young people to contribute to making the future of Duqm



Duqm center is preparing for a new phase of development



Wali of Duqm during his interview with the editor-in-chief

CSR is of interest to government agencies and companies in Duqm

We follow government agencies to accelerate the completion of procedures and approvals for community projects funded by companies

Providing job opportunities for citizens

On efforts to provide employment opportunities for the people of Duqm, H.E. Sheikh Mohsen bin Hamad Al-Maskari commended the efforts made by SEZAD and the Ministry of Manpower in this regard. He pointed out that the Office of Wali of Duqm is keen to meet with companies on a permanent basis and urge them to provide appropriate job opportunities for the people of Duqm and there is good response. "We believe that the response of companies in such cases will contribute to strengthening relations with the people to serve the interests of everyone," said Al-Maskari.

Activate Economic Movement

His Excellency stressed that the bene-

fit for the people of Duqm from the projects taking place in SEZD goes beyond scholarships, training programs and direct job opportunities to include many other aspects. "The projects implemented have made a quantum leap to the Wilayat and contributed to the revitalization of economic activity in various sectors. They provided good opportunities for the growth of local companies. The Wali's office seeks to have open channels between the companies and the people. Therefore, we are keen to invite students and youth to attend the seminars and conferences held in the Wilayat to take advantage of anything proposed and form positive awareness of the new generation towards the major projects taking place in the Wilayat," concluded Al-Maskari.


Statement about the projects carried out in coordination with the Civil Affairs Committees and financed by the companies operating at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm in 2014 and 2015

Sl.	Name of the Project	Cost (OMR)	Financing Company
1	Building an umbrella for the school queue at Hitam School	10,750	Oman Drydock Company
2	Maintaining and furnishing the public council at the Wilayat of Duqm's headquarters	5,720	
3	Fencing the public council at Hitam village	7,000	
4	Fencing the public council at Dhahr village	5,000	
5	Maintaining the windows and fixing protecting screens for them at the public council in Dhahr village	965	
6	Maintaining the windows and fixing protecting screens for them at the public council in Ras Madrakah village	1,155	
7	Creating funds for the protection of trees at Ras Madrakah village	1,700	
8	Buying a water tank for Wadi Al-Ladha with a capacity of 4 thousand gallons	850	Group of Companies
9	Conducting a campaign to remove the Mesquite trees at Ras Madrakah village	-	
10	Building two speed breakers on the public road at Dhahr village	-	Strabag Oman Company
11	Building a stadium for Duqm sports team	10,000	Oman Drydock Company
12	Building a stadium for Ras Madrakah sports team	7,000	
13	Building a stadium for Dhahr sports team	10,000	
14	Supporting Duqm sports team	2,000	Duqm Refinery Company
15	Rebuilding the Eids Prayer Area at the Wilayat of Say's Headquarters	14,330	Oman Drydock Company
16	Buying carpets + speakers for the Eids prayer area at Duqm	-	
17	Rebuilding the Eids Prayer Area at Ras Madrakah Village	9,400	
18	Building a new tomb at Ras Madrakah Village	8,190	Strabag Oman Company
19	Building 9 speed breakers on the internal streets at the headquarters of the Wilayat.	-	
20	Building 3 speed breakers on the public road at Hitam village	-	Al-Hajiri Company
21	Supporting the folkloric arts troupe in the Wilayat during its participation in Salalah Tourism Festival 2015	1,500	Oman Drydock Company
22	Bearing the expenses of leasing the Omani Women's Association's headquarters in Duqm	-	Duqm Refinery Company
23	Furnishing the Omani Women's Association's headquarters in Duqm	-	
24	Providing 120 blood pressure test devices and 130 diabetes test devices to distribute them on the citizens who suffer these diseases	5,000	Renaissance Services SAOG
25	Building a car park on Juwairah beach	-	Al-Hajiri Company

CSR is a source of economic stability, social welfare and environmental sustainability

By: Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi:

Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Executive Vice President and head of the Community Development Committee at SEZAD, stressed that SEZAD pays great attention to the corporate social responsibility (CSR) and regards it as a source of economic stability, social welfare and environmental sustainability.

In an exclusive interview for , he indicated that SEZAD vision of CSR focuses on the harmonization of SEZAD strategies, policies and activities with important social issues of the community by introducing initiatives in the domains of education, health, environment, social development and development of legislation and relevant laws. This also includes involvement of all the relevant major parties in the programs to raise the level of awareness and capacity building in Al-Wusta Governorate to become a respected model between economic zones.

Focus on Education and Training

CSR programs in Duqm are variegated. Statistics indicates that education and training came at the forefront of implemented programs. In the two academic years (2014 - 2015) and (2015 - 2016) there was funding of 29 grants for graduates of General Education Diploma of the children of Wilayat of Duqm to study Bachelor's degree in private universities and colleges in the Sultanate and in some disciplines that companies operating in SEZD need. "Through these programs, SEZAD and the companies operating in SEZD seek to achieve three main objectives: strengthening youth capacity and potential in Duqm, providing job opportunities for the people of the Wilayat in which the projects implemented in SEZD and filling the needs of the companies operating in SEZD for qualified Omani cadres," stated Al-Balushi.

He stressed that the education sector receives the attention of SEZAD within the CSR programs it implements. "SEZAD discusses continuously with the educational institutions on the one hand and companies operating in SEZD on the other hand the implementation of initiatives that enhance education and help educational institutions achieve its main objectives to make education the source of creativity, knowledge and preparation Omani cadres capable of positive contribution in the development process in the country," added Al-Balushi

Focus on initiatives in education, health, environment and social development

Involvement of all the major parties in our programs towards building a model of interest to similar economic zones

Establishment of a specialized training center

"SEZAD is keen to develop the capabilities and potential of the people of the Wilayat and qualifying them to work in the various projects implemented in SEZD. SEZAD has coordinated with the specialists at the Ministry of Manpower to take inventory of the number of job seekers in Duqm to provide employment or training opportunities for them. This cooperation has resulted in creating a database for job seekers and a list of job vacancies at companies operating in SEZD. He pointed that SEZAD has equipped a training center with the necessary equipment and tools a part of its plan in coordination with Duqm Refinery Company, Duqm Petroleum Warehouses Company and Takatuf Oman to implement Duqm Training Initiative launched in November 2015 to train job seekers from Duqm and prepare them to enter the labor market.

"SEZAD has taken the necessary measures for training national manpower in various disciplines in accordance with the training plans approved by SEZAD Board of Directors to qualify the Omani cadres to work in the projects implemented in SEZD. It also focuses on the provision of funding for activities that promote and training, praising the cooperation with Bank Muscat to hold training workshops for SMEs related to business development," elaborated Al-Balushi.

Facing Challenges

He pointed out that SEZAD has identified four goals to address the challenges facing

the national workforce in companies operating in SEZD. These include making lifelong learning a fact for the people of Duqm, attract educational and training institutions of high quality and efficiency to provide their services in SEZD, promotion of the concepts of equality, social harmony and active citizenship, and promotion of creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship at all levels of education and training.

Concern for the Environment

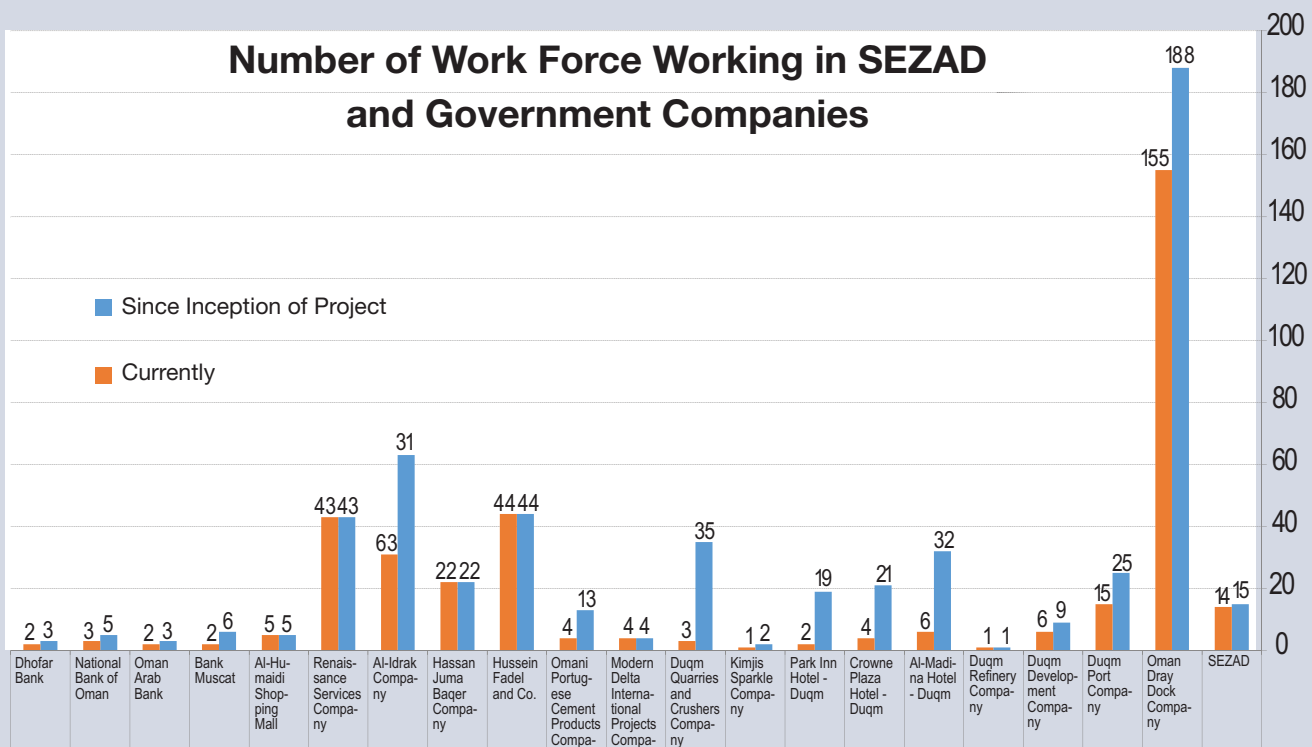
He indicated that CSR programs also include concern for the environment, stressing that SEZAD is committed to protecting the environment for future generations. It works with the Governor's Office in Al-Wusta Governorate, the Office of Wali of Duqm, government institutions and companies operating in SEZD to create and provide initiatives to protect and preserve the environment by reducing the volume of waste solutions, waste treatment, water and energy conservation, support recycling and encourage companies in SEZD to execute these initiatives.

He explained that SEZAD is working to increase the level of awareness about recycling policy and develop internal guidelines to assist its employees and staff of companies operating in SEZD to do so and find a greater awareness about the environment and the surrounding community.

Objectives of Community Development Committee

Regarding the objectives of the Commu-

Number of Work Force Working in SEZAD and Government Companies



Contracts Contracted to Local Companies and Corporations

Sr.	Comapany	Number of Contracts	Type
1	SEZAD	4	Various services including office rental and cleaning
2	Oman Dray Dock	9	Various services including dyeing, welding, cleaning and nutrition
3	Duqm Port	7	Various services including logistics, construction, and supply of potable water
4	Duqm Development	4	Various services including cleaning, sanitation and nutrition
5	Al-Madina Hotel - Duqm	13	Various services including provision of meat, fish, foodstuff, and vegetables
6	Crowne Plaza Hotel - Duqm	Not Specified	Provision of potable water, transportation, sanitation, and gas cylinders
7	Park Inn Hotel - Duqm	Not Specified	Provision of engineering equipment and services
8	Modern Delta International Projects	2	Provision of potable water and water tanker
9	Omani Portugese Cement Products	2	Provision of sand
10	Hussein Fadel and Co.	6	Sanitation services, provision of water and rental of some equipment
11	Hassan Baqer Juma	Not Specified	
12	Al-Idrak	6	Sanitation services, provision of water, rental of some equipment and provision of sand
13	Renaissance Services	19	Various services
	Total	72	

nity Development Committee he chairs since its inception in December 2013, he stated that it focuses on achieving maximum benefit for the people from the projects implemented in SEZD and organizing support and funding operations from companies operating in SEZD region. Therefore, it specifies the priorities of the programs and projects whose implementation requires the support and development of the local community, the sources of funding social programs and events, and coordination with the competent authorities in the social, cultural, health, women and municipal programs and community development programs. It also stimulates the private sec-

tor and the companies operating in SEZD to participate in serving the local community as part of social responsibility, raising the level of awareness of volunteering among citizens and institutions, development of social awareness towards the ongoing projects in SEZD, and stimulating SMEs initiatives.

He pointed out that the Committee has recently implemented some programs, notably providing scholarships for undergraduate study in private universities and colleges in the Sultanate for the people of the Wilayat of Duqm so that they take advantage of the job opportunities available in SEZD. "We have focused that these scholarships should be in

Granting local companies more than 80 contracts and providing 560 jobs for the people of Duqm

Taking in-inventory of job seekers in Duqm and creation of a database for them and career opportunities





Necessary measures for training national work force in various disciplines

Attention to protecting the environment, reducing the volume of waste, water and energy conservation, and support recycling initiatives

the disciplines that the operating companies in SEZD need. This vision encouraged some government agencies and private sector companies to provide similar grants," added Al-Balushi.

Variety of Programs

He said that the Committee, which comprises 12 members, including six members representing the people of the Wilayat of Duqm, implemented in collaboration with the operating companies in SEZD during the past two years some programs, including the construction of a Quran school in coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs. It also financed the implementation of the challenge program for the students of Al-Wusta Province, provided financial and logistical support for the implementation of some activities and events in the Wilayat, including educational and training activities, and promoted the participation of women in social and economic life in Duqm, environmental activities and other events.

More than 80 Contracts for Local Companies

Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi stressed the role played by SEZAD, and government and private companies operating in SEZD in granting contracts to local institutions and

businesses as part of their approach to promote CSR programs in SEZD. He said that the contracts obtained by local companies exceeded 80 and included many services ranging from cleaning services, office rental, logistics, provision of meat, fish, food, vegetables, drinking water, nutrition, and transportation, sanitation services, gas cylinders, provision of engineering equipment and services, dyeing, welding, construction, and many other services. He pointed out that these contracts contributed to the revitalization of economic activity in SEZD and provided many job opportunities for the local community.

He explained that job opportunities provided by SEZAD and companies operating in SEZD since the start of work in SEZD until the end of 2015 for the people of Duqm amounted to about 560 jobs, but the number of the workforce who kept their jobs until the end of last year amounted to 369 employees.

At the end of the interview, Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Executive Vice President and head of the Community Development Committee at SEZAD, expressed his thanks and appreciation for the various companies operating in SEZD for their positive contributions to CSR programs there and their continuous interaction with Community Development Committee at SEZAD.

Duqm Refinery: We look forward to building genuine partnerships with local communities



Duqm - :

Duqm Refinery Company asserted that it is designing and implementing CSR programs and initiatives in ways beneficial to society and business alike.

In its report on CSR programs carried out during 2015, it stated that it seeks to build genuine partnerships with local communities and other stakeholders to achieve meaningful and valuable community benefits, stressing at the same time that it works to promote the spirit of collective participation of its staff through involving them in all community activities of the refinery. In this regard, company's CSR team inaugurated "Sawaid" program, which enables employees to contribute their time and efforts to provide or support social projects in an organized and well-thought manner.

Education and Training Programs

Duqm Refinery is a major partner in Duqm Training Initiative. During the academic year 2015/2016, it supported two scholarships for undergraduate study in private universities and colleges for the students of Duqm under the umbrella of SEZAD Community Development Committee and in collaboration with the Higher Education Admission Center. In collaboration with Injaz Oman, the company also organized "Innovation Camp", which targeted 600 students in six schools in Duqm. The program included training workshops to familiarize students with the world of entrepreneurship.

In collaboration with the National Center for Vocational Guidance of the Ministry of Education, the Company executed "Challenge" Training Program in Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar that targeted 90 young people from Duqm between 15-17 years. The program aims to make young people live field adventures and challenges to learn how to overcome them,

raise the efficiency of their skills and self-reliance.


Women Empowerment

As part of its interest in Omani women, Duqm Refinery provided generous support to Omani Women Association in Duqm through the renewal of its head office and provision of all the equipment and materials that enable it to work efficiently and effectively. The company's teams provided all requirements for the design and furnishing of the new office. The company also allocated an exhibition for the Association to display all local handicrafts produced by women in Duqm. Duqm Refinery Communications Team also provided support to the Association in the preparation of its own brand identity in a way to place it within the ranks of the leading non-governmental organizations in SEZD.

Duqm Refinery also cooperated with Information Technology Authority to implement a training program in the field of information technology for 200 women from Al-Wusta Governorate. In 2015, Duqm Refinery, in cooperation with Oman Women Association "Wadha" Initiative, which aims to empower women in Duqm in particular and the rest of the Wilayats of the Governorate Central in general. The initiative included the implementation of two training programs with the participation of 80 women from Duqm. The first program was on landscape painting while the second program was on jewelry design.

Sports Field

In the sports field, the company organized the first edition of Duqm Refinery Cup Tournament held in the grass stadium at the residential complex of Oman Dry Dock Company with the participation of 12 teams from the Wilayat. The company also provided material support the sports team in the Wilayat of Duqm.


Implementation of programs to empower women, support sports team and organization of Duqm Refinery Cup Tournament

Supported by SEZAD and OOC and carried out in collaboration with GUtech

Duqm Training Initiative: new step for the



During the inauguration of Duqm Training Initiative

Said Al-Harthy: embodies the Government's vision and commitment to the development of human resources in SEZD

Ibrahim Al-Harthy: seek to achieve the maximum benefit for the trainees and exploit our experience and capabilities

Duqm - **الدقم** :

In November 2015, Duqm Training Initiative commenced with the objective to qualify young Omanis to work in various companies in SEZD.

The initiative enjoys the support of SEZAD and Oman Oil Company (OCC) represented by Duqm Refinery Company and Duqm Petroleum Depots, and overseen by Community Development Committee at SEZAD and Takatuf Oman Company in cooperation with the German University of Technology (GUtech).

The initiative includes the provision of basic theoretical training programs in English language, computer, management and work ethics. It seeks primarily to qualify and enhance the capabilities of citizens in getting suitable job opportunities in addition to qualifying them to receive advanced training opportunities in various future initiatives offered by different companies and institutions operating in SEZD.

H.E. Said bin Hamdoon Al-Harthy, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications for Ports and Maritime Affairs, member of the Board of Directors of SEZAD stated that this initiative embodies the vision of the government, represented by SEZAD, and its commitment to the development of human resources in SEZD. "Qualification of human resources in SEZD is of interest to SEZAD as part of its social responsibility that requires building local expertise able to work in the various companies operating in SEZAD," stated Al-Harthy in a press statement after his tour in the training center allocated for this purpose in Wilayat of Duqm.

He noted his pleasure of the role of Omani cadres to enhance the performance of national economy. "SEZD is rich with a range of different projects, and given the importance of these projects to achieve economic diversification and job creation for young people, the efforts are continuing to qualify young Omanis to work in these projects and build local expertise capable of excellence in various work sectors in SEZD," concluded Al-Harthy.

Achieving maximum benefit for the trainees

For his part, Ibrahim Al-Harthy, Acting Chief Executive of Takatuf Oman said that they seek to achieve the maximum benefit for the trainees in this initiative and that they exploit their expertise and capabilities to achieve this.

Takatuf Oman is the training arm of OOC. In November 2014, SEZAD signed a memorandum of understanding with it to enter into a partnership to develop and manage a general program to qualify and enhance human capacity for residents in Al-Wusta Governorate.

"The support of OOC group companies operating in SEZD, represented by Duqm Refinery Company, Duqm Petroleum Depots Company and Takatuf Oman reflects the care enjoyed by human resources in SEZD by OOC out of its social responsibility.

Enriching economic growth in Duqm

For her part, Nasha bint Mohammed Al-Falahi, General Manager of Corporate Affairs at Duqm Refinery Company stated that the company considers social responsibility one of the important pillars and basic princi-

qualification of young people to enter labor market



ples it seeks to implement out of its vision and in pursuit of prosperity and economic growth in Duqm. "It aims to contribute to building a more prosperous future for Oman. This is also an embodiment of the principle of partnership between public and private sectors and civil society institutions in order to achieve comprehensive development in the Sultanate, particularly in the field of training and development of human resources," stated Al-Falahi.

She pointed out that this initiative and other upcoming initiatives in various fields in the coming years are part of the commitments of Duqm Refinery Company to sustainable development in the Sultanate. "The company will strive to design and implement programs and initiatives that seek primarily to improve and qualify the national cadres commensurate with the aspirations of the community and the requirements of labor market," concluded Al-Falahi.

Community Partnership

Ismail bin Ahmad Al-Balushi, Executive Vice President of SEZAD, Head of the Community Development Committee at SEAZD, indicated that Duqm Training Initiative aims to qualify and enhance the capabilities of citizen job seekers to have suitable job opportunities, and promote the principle of social partnership between government and private institutions to provide quality programs that advance citizens.

He stressed that the initiative is also designed to support all efforts aimed at strengthening the scientific and practical capacity for the people of Al-Wusta Governorate through cooperation with the pioneers in the education

and training sector for the implementation of quality programs. "This is in addition to the support of citizens to receive advanced training opportunities in various future initiatives that the companies and institutions operating in SEZD will provide," stated Al-Balushi.

He pointed out that the last period has seen a lot of work to implement the program, praising the role of the various parties in this quality initiative. He said that qualified candidates underwent placement test under the supervision of Takatuf Oman, which then chose the top 50 candidates to join the 6-month training program implemented by GUtech.

Progress of Initiative

About the progress of the implementation of the initiative, Haitham bin Salim Al-Shabibi, English teacher at GUtech, indicated that the initiative program began to bear fruit. "The beneficiaries started to show interest in the various educational programs and response increases day after day though it was challenging at the beginning in terms of commitment to time and understanding English-speaking instructors," stated Al-Shabibi.

"We faced varying challenges notably non-arrival of the students in a timely manner because of the distance between the center and their homes. However, the initiative team of SEZAD, Duqm Refinery Company, Duqm Petroleum Depots Company collaborated and solved this issue by providing a means to transport and a snack to promote academic atmosphere appropriate for students," added Al-Shabibi.



Nasha Al-Falahy:
look forward to enrich economic growth in Duqm and contribute to building a more prosperous future for the Sultanate



Ismail Al-Balushi:
strengthening the capacity of job seekers for work to get suitable job opportunities



Trainers:
*focus on the
qualifying
students to
enter job
market with
greater con-
fidence*

Allen, senior English language teacher, said that the students benefit from the educational programs better day after day, pointing out that GUtech coaching staff at the German University would provide educational programs that prepare students to enter the job market with greater confidence by providing them with the skills required to do so.

For his part, Yunus bin Sabil Al-Balushi, lecturer at the training center, commended the development of students' level studying at center level,

pointing out that the training program focuses on developing students' skills in English, in particular for the first three months and then they shall study computer and work ethics.

He said that the center is witnessing weekly visits by companies operating in Duqm to talk about job opportunities available and that this method has contributed in addition to the incentives offered to encourage students towards academic excellence.



Trainees: The training program enhances our capabilities and we look forward to working in a company in SEZD

Maryam bint Harib Al-Junaibi, one of the beneficiaries of Duqm Training Initiative, stated that joining this program represents a good opportunity to benefit through various educational programs. "Studying English will inevitably help us in the future to break the barrier of communication with foreigners. This program provides us day after day with terms and methods for dealing with the non-Arabic-speaking. We have learned learnt methods of how to interact and communicate in English," indicated Al-Junaibi.

"I thank those in charge of this initiative and I hope that SEZD companies continue their efforts to increase their support for such programs that benefit the residents of Duqm. I also hope that we have more opportunities in education, training and develop-



Maryam
Al-Junaibi

ment programs that allow us to enter the labor market in SEZD, which we hope to be part of its success," added Maryam.

Asaad bin Khalifah Al-Junaibi stated that enrollment in the program was through competition to determine the levels of applicants and find out the



Asaad
Al-Junaibi

extent of seriousness. Then, they were distributed in two divisions to study English language, and communication and computer skills.

Asaad expressed his hope to get the opportunity to work in a project in SEZD after the end of the training program.

Oman Dry Dock invests more than OMR 200,000 in community service programs since 2012



Duqm - :

Between 2012 and 2015, Oman Dry Dock Company invested more than OMR 200,000 in direct programs to serve the community in Duqm in particular and Al-Wusta Governorate in general. It also awarded local companies (9) contracts to provide a variety of services, including dyeing, welding, cleaning, catering, etc. it also employed 158 young people from Duqm from 2012 to mid 2015.

The programs funded by Oman Dry Dock Company in 2012 included the qualification of the football field in Duqm, build a football and volleyball field for Ras Madrasah team in Duqm to encourage young people of that region to practice sports activities. It also provided school bags, "Back to School", for schools in the Wilayat of Duqm, ma-

terial support to Al-Noor Association for the Blind (Dakhiliyyah branch) to help build their own offices. It was the main sponsor of B & W Sudoku Foundation interested in helping autists. This foundation involved autism patients from Duqm in its programs.

During 2013, Oman Dry Dock Company funded (18) programs, including: awareness seminar on maritime safety for Omani fisherman, qualification of the football field for Dhohr sports team in Duqm, support of Fifth Muscat Youth Forum held in Duqm on 15-19 December 2013, and support of the establishment of the queue umbrella at Hitam School for basic education in Duqm.

In 2014, the company funded and sponsored 14 programs and events. These included honoring outstanding students at Duqm schools for the academic year 2013-2014, and sponsoring third edition of mathematics and

statistics activities of the Community of Mathematics at SQU held in Duqm schools. The company also funded fencing the public majlis areas in Dhohr and Hitam, rebuilding Eid prayer yard in Duqm, and maintenance of the public majlis in the village of Dhohr and Ras Madrasah.

During 2015, Oman Dry Dock Company sponsored a number of programs and events including the second Duqm Forum: Society and Economy, Mahout traditional equestrian festival, and ceremony for honoring outstanding students in Duqm schools. This also included rebuilding of Eid prayer yard in Ras Madrasah, drilling of a well in Jalouni Reserve to serve the people, support the establishment of the summer center at Dhohr school, and providing material support to the Omani Society for People with Disabilities to cover its activities in Al-Wusta Governorate.

Encouraging young people to practice sports activities, supporting school bag and honoring outstanding students

Muscat Youth Forum, an event sponsored by Oman Dry Dock Company





One of the trainees receives her certificate at the end of the program implemented in collaboration with the University of Nizwa

Funding of 5 scholarships at higher education institutions in the Sultanate for bachelor's degree

Duqm Development Company Implements an Ambitious CSR Program

Duqm - الدقم :

Abdullah bin Ali Al-Hattali, Deputy Chairman of the CSR Committee at Duqm Development Company, confirmed that the company is implementing an ambitious CSR program that reflects its efforts to build a complementary relationship with the local community and broaden people's benefit from the projects implemented by the company in SEZD.

"The company has prepared its CSR program that includes several initiatives that serve the local community in Duqm in particular and the specialized associations in general, stressing the importance of these initiatives in the activation of the partnership between the private sector and society," stated Al-Hattali.

Duqm Development Company is a government company owned equally by Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran) and Oman Dry Dock Company. It was established to provide high standard residential units and recreational facilities to serve the employees working in the SEZD. The company started the implementation of its first project in 2010, which is the first phase of Duqm Frontier Town and is preparing now for the second phase.

Focus on educational and training programs

"The company has supported a number of community programs and events with a focus on education and training programs because the company's vision stresses the importance of qualifications of local cadres of the people of the Wilayat of Duqm in particular and Al-Wusta Governorate in general to work in the various projects being implemented in SEZD," added Al-Hattali.

"In August, the company signed a financing agreement with the Ministry of Higher Education under which the company would fund five scholarships at private higher education institutions in Oman to get bachelor's degree in different

Abdullah Al-Hattali:
we focus on building a complementary relationship with the community and promotion of people's benefit from the projects implemented

disciplines: information technology, nursing, business, management, engineering, and architecture," elaborated Al-Hattali.

He pointed out that specializations selected keep pace with the needs of the projects taking place in SEZD, stressing that the qualification of Omani youth and raising their education levels is one of the priorities of focus for the company's programs in CSR field. These programs have a positive contribution in the appropriate preparation for young Omanis to work in the projects being implemented in SEZD or elsewhere.

A training program at the University of Nizwa

He noted in this regard the training program funded by the company to train 18 youths from the people of the Wilayat of Duqm, who completed the twelfth grade at public education schools. "This program has been implemented by the Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nizwa and at Nizwa campus. It included three training courses in Basics of Information Technology, English for beginners and modern office skills. The program concluded on 30 December 2015 under the auspices of H.E. Sheikh Mohsen bin Hamad Al-Maskari, Wali of Duqm," said Al-Hattali.

He pointed out that this program aimed at raising the educational achievement level of the trainees by focusing on making the most of the educational materials provided by the University. It also provided the trainees with the experience of staying at student accommodation at Nizwa University campus.

Support for associations

"Duqm Development Company has also provided material support to some associations, namely Al-Noor Association for the Blind, Oman Cancer Association, Oman Diabetes Association and Oman Association of Elderly Friends.

Through this support, the company aims to strengthen the role of NGOs in community service," concluded Al-Hattali.



Head of Omani Women's Association in Duqm:

CSR programs promote women's contribution to development



Sayyid Kamel bin Fahd at the Omani Women's Association pavilion while sponsoring the opening of the Second Duqm Forum: Society and Economy

Duqm - :

Nashila bint Barut Al-Janini, Head of the Omani Women's Association (OWA) in Duqm, stated that CSR programs implemented in Duqm during the past few years have contributed to the development of the capacities of women and enhance their contribution to development in the country. She stressed that the programs implemented by OWA in collaboration with it supporting and funding companies and government agencies contributed to the achievement of many of OWA objectives.

In a statement to , she highlighted the programs implemented by OWA since its inception on 17 October 2014. "OWA has implemented a number of programs and events including a training program in the field of computers for 100 girls with funding from Duqm Refinery Company. The program included information on the basics of computer, World Wide Web, security software, and other topics that have contributed to the development of girls' skills in the field of computers. OWA also organized a crafts exhibition of women products and implemented a program to take care of the elderly, and another for the products of coastal women," stated Al-Janini.

"Early 2015, OWA launched a program for maternal and child care through which a kindergarten was opened. OWA also implemented diabetes and blood pressure screening program. Formed was a working group that conducted field visits to people in their homes to make them aware of these diseases and conduct the necessary tests. OWA organized fasting breakfast program and

participated in Salalah Tourism Festival in its last session held in the summer of 2015," elaborated Al-Janini.

She stressed that these programs contributed significantly to the employment of girls' capabilities in the Wilayat in works that benefit them and help them refine their skills. This would them reflect positively on them in particular and the society in general. We organized a landscape and jewelry art exhibition in October 2014 at Crowne Plaza Duqm Hotel. It included the display of 40 paintings and a set of jewelry and ornaments. This exhibition reflected the capabilities of the girls who participated in the workshops within Wadha Initiative launched by Duqm Refinery in cooperation with OWA in Duqm. It included the implementation of the first two training programs in the field of jewelry design and landscape painting with the participation of 80 girls from the Wilayat. The two programs continued for one week each and were implemented by female Omani specialists in the field of arts and jewelry design.

The Head of OWA in Duqm stated that the initiatives implemented in 2015 contributed to the strengthening of the capacities of Omani women to be a key partner in the development of the country. "Omani women in Duqm benefited from CSR programs implemented especially those relating to education, training, capacity building, skills and providing job opportunities," added Al-Janini.

At the end of her statement, she commended the role of Office of Wali of Duqm, Duqm Refinery Company, and SEZAD in supporting OWA activities in order to achieve its objectives.


**80 girls
benefited
from
"Wadha"
Initiative
in the field
of jewelry
design and
landscape
painting**



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR and its famous 3 words today are widely used by most organisations: and relates to responsibilities corporations have towards society within which they are based and operate, however CSR goes much beyond this.

The Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm (SEZAD) believes that strategic approach to CSR is increasingly important to a company's competitiveness. Brings benefits in terms of risk management, cost savings, access to capital, customer relationships, human resource management, and innovation capacity. It also encourages more social and environmental responsibility from the corporate sector when crisis has damaged consumer confidence and the levels of trust in business.

CSR offers a set of values on which to build a more cohesive society and on which to base the transition to a sustainable economic system as is reflected below in SEZAD's Definition of CSR.

- Duqm SEZAD 's Corporate Social Responsibility is defined by our actions that focus on environment, social and economic performance's as well as the impact of the Economic Zone on its internal and external stakeholders.
- Duqm SEZAD demonstrates its ongoing commitment to CSR by Funding , promoting, supporting, organizing, and participating in activities that nurture community spirit, promote a balanced lifestyle to its employee's, and help preserve Duqm as a whole and Al Wusta Regions cultural and natural heritage.

As CSR continues to strengthen its position within organizations, perceptions of some stakeholders continues to worry as seen in an article listed by KPMG below;

CSR MYTHS: A Commonly Misunderstood Concept (Referenced from KPMG 2013)

In the absence of a universally accepted definition for CSR, there are some myths that surround the concept:

• Myth # 1:

Businesses invest the money, therefore they decide the modus operandi of the CSR initiative.

There is a notion that since businesses invest money in society, they are the one who will be deciding upon the modus operandi of the CSR initiative. However this is not true. CSR driven by the mandate of an enterprise alone may not generate desired results. Stakeholders must be involved from the onset in defining an initiative to make it successful. Corporates must not assume that they understand the needs of a community by taking them at face value; stakeholder's needs must be con-

sidered within the local context and culture.

• Myth # 2:

Financial resources alone can meet CSR needs of an enterprise.

In fact, financial resources are only part of the equation. Besides financial resources, it is equally or even more important for the CSR programmes to be well defined and well accompanied by adequate human resources if they are to meet the intended objectives.

• Myth # 3:

CSR is interchangeable with corporate sponsorship, donation or other philanthropic activities. The focus of responsible business practices in the profit sector is hitherto largely confined to community charity-based projects.

While this may have been relevant for the historical context in the mid-90s when Carroll's definition was coined, the current thinking of CSR has moved beyond philanthropy to in fact encompass all internal and external segments of business operations: employees, market environment and community.

In conclusion as CSR continues to become a serious partner to any organisation multiple global organisations also have started to place mechanisms to measure and report CSR Initiatives.

ISO a global standardisation over the last 5 years has created a guidance mechanism that shows organisations how to operate in a socially responsible manner. This means acting in an ethical and transparent way that contributes to the health and welfare of society.

The standard was launched in 2010 negotiated by many stakeholders across the world, representatives from Government, NGO's and industry, consumer groups and labour organisations around the world were involved in its development, which means that it represents an international consensus (Ref www.iso.org) 2015 .

The ISO 26000 unlike its other ISO standardisations such as the ISO 9000 for Quality and ISO 14000 for environment runs on 3 pillars ; Economic Development , Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility however unlike its other counterparts is not mandatory and cannot be certified though it is voluntary.

Where once Governments were responsible for all aspects relating to the communities in every sense , today NGO's and Private organisations are carrying the weight as well , Where NGO's continue to support families and social initiatives , today the Private sector has realised that its focus must lean towards sustainable development of the communities in the area it conducts its business as well as support local SME's , local produce , development of talent as part of its in country value (ICV)

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How Can Social Responsibility Become a Right?

We always face the debate about corporate social responsibility (CSR) and whether it optional or mandatory. Is it additional arrangements after the company fulfils all its legal obligations (taxes / manpower / industrial security / customer service etc.) or are the costs of those commitments discountable? Is it a "fashion" or a sustainable and rooted idea? Do we have to do all its ten requirements stipulated by United Nations Global Compact (purely voluntary initiative) or only some of them? Does CSR vary depending on the area or sector of the company? Does the same apply to private and public companies?

I will not give answers to those questions because I believe that what is more needful is to develop a practical tool to measure the impact of CSR initiatives accurately, and prepare scientifically audited questionnaires to monitor the public expectations from companies and evaluate what they offered on the ground, so that we can rectify the track whenever required.

It is known that the companies that are part of the United Nations Global Compact prepare and submit annual reports on its CSR activities to the lead of the initiative and publish them on their websites. However, this is not enough to make an integrated assessment and there is a need for other tools.

The essence of the sense of responsibility towards the society and the State in which the company operates is not to be making a profit out of unacceptable actions, whether morally or legally. These include child employment, breach of equality in wages and working conditions, denial of basic rights of the individual, corruption, or environmentally harmful practices. However, this applies to all human activities whether non-profit or not. These principles and values should govern all the behaviors of individuals and groups. However, these ideals do not offer much for the real analysis of issues. None can deny that the largest Arab companies offer to the general, surrounding or both communities a lot now not out of the principles of the UN principles but also and perhaps primarily out of self-motivations related to religion, conscience, sense of duty and social ties. The fact is also that the employees at large Arab or global companies execute activities that help the needy, the sick, the children, the poor, and women heads of households in Africa, in the countries of operation or in a country such as Egypt or others. Some of them face tremendous hardships to continue helping, donating blood, provision of clothing, blankets and medicines, feeding the hungry, improving the environment, provision of clean water and sewer service to the poorest and so on. Those actions are in good faith or must be honest because no one can judge intentions. However, there is no harm that we should monitor the practices carried out under the title of CSR with flaunting or creating more demand for the goods or services provided by the donor company as the goal (like some countries that provide grants to increase the poor country's need for certain goods or services). One also realizes how some politicians, journalists or artists make unpalatable benefits because of their involvement in CSR of some businesspeople or companies under the pretext of providing services, counseling or aiding in the distribution or determining those who need or even for "framing" or garnishing the donation process in the eyes of public.

Sometimes, CSR is just a response to the direction of an official that the company would like to gain his favor so that he can give it required approvals or condone a mistake it committed. The official can also aim to make fame at the expense of the social activities of the company pursuant to his directions. Some can perform CSR only because he wants to cover up mistakes or irregularities committed by the company, or because the law allows donation of a percentage of profits to be deducted from the taxable income. Therefore, the company will pay the money in all cases it may find it better to pump it directly into the community rather than paying it to the public treasury.

All of the above are some of the defects observed in the field of CSR and this may involve exaggerations, misunderstanding or miscalculation. However, the presence of these defects more or less makes it inevitable - as I said - to develop scientific standards to assess the social impact of the activities of these companies, what they prioritize and what their employees offer. If I may suggest to ensure the effectiveness of what is being offered, I recommend education and training.

Nothing is more beneficial and effective for the future of nations than education, development of modern education and training and capacity building in total. During a recent visit to Washington, I told officials at the World Bank: "Had World Bank focused since its establishment only on the reform and development of education in the world, what would have been the status of humankind now?"

Because the article is published in a magazine that covers everything related to logistics, maritime transportation and ports, one would imagine that provision of executive education programs and professional development for all levels of management within the company and its clients as well as the children of suppliers or buyers would be highly beneficial. The same also applies to supporting the advanced research in the field of logistics, organizing relevant forums and events, and mobilizing the efforts of all developers of logistics services towards the achievement of a common great achievement that affects the field of education and training, or even in other fields. This would also involve the exchange of experiences and qualification of investors/owners of small and medium enterprises to progress and compete, sponsoring international transport and logistics departments at various academies, and sending missions to the Dutch Institute for Advanced Logistics, Zaragoza Logistics Center in Spain, National University of Singapore, International Foundation for Logistics in Seoul or the Arab Academy for Maritime Transport. All this would make a great leap in development and in a highly interconnected economic activity, where the Arab countries have a clear advantage because their location is on the most important global trade lines.

These are the proposals of a citizen. They do not cancel the idea of innovation of criteria that evaluate the social activity of companies and taking advantage of the views of the public in changing or amending the priorities of the activity to benefit the society maximally. The aim of all this is to establish the relationship between the company and its Arab surroundings and consolidate a new level of social stability much needed.

Confident of the success of SEZD and our investments are based on realistic foundations



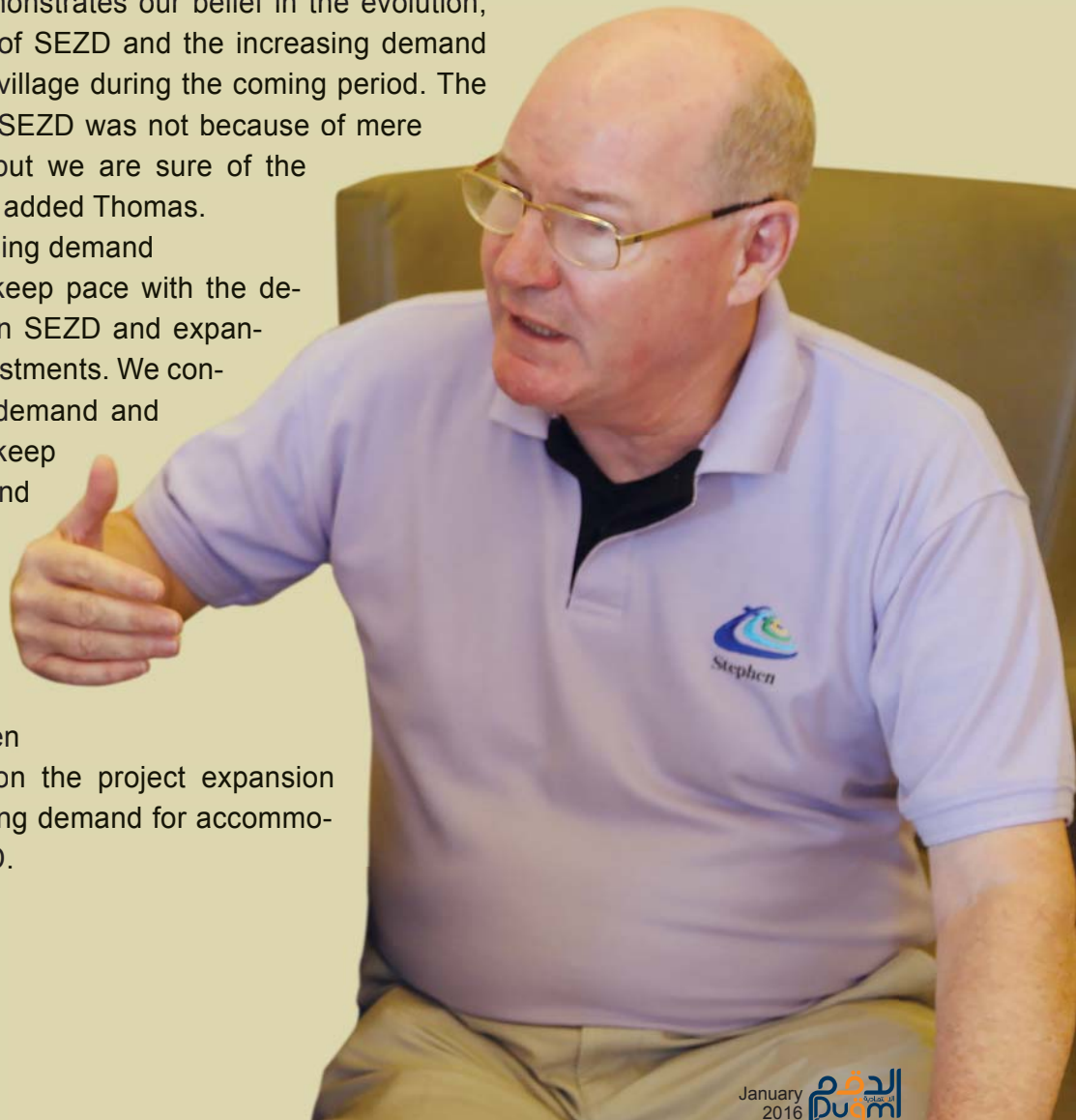
Duqm: Saleh bin Nabhan Al-Mamari:

In an interview with the editor, Steven Thomas, CEO of Renaissance Services Group stated during his inspection visit to Renaissance Village Project expected to provide 16 thousand beds in SEZD that “this project is one of the most important projects undertaken by Renaissance Services Group in the Sultanate. It has so far injected USD 200 million or more than OMR 77. It shall be at the middle of SEZD close to the most strategic projects here and the tourist area.”

“Renaissance Village Project implemented in an area more than 550 km away demonstrates our belief in the evolution, growth and expansion of SEZD and the increasing demand for the services of this village during the coming period. The investment decision in SEZD was not because of mere prospects of success but we are sure of the success of the project,” added Thomas.

Keeping pace with rising demand

“We made plans to keep pace with the development of projects in SEZD and expansions of its growing investments. We considered the increased demand and growth and we shall keep pace with that demand by developing Renaissance Village Project to provide high quality services for those who will stay in this integrated city,” Stephen replied to a question on the project expansion plan in case of increasing demand for accommodation services in SEZD.





Stephen Speaking to the Editor

Global Standards

"The accommodation specifications in Renaissance Village keep up with the standards required by the Ministry of Manpower in Oman, UN standards and requirements and standards of the World Organization for Workers. We consider accommodation, ventilation, waste management, gatherings and health services. At the same time, we strive to make SEZD a competitive environment in the real estate market, offering high quality standards for competitive prices for the investors and owners of large projects to stay there comfortably, quietly, safely and healthily. There are also nutrition services that will satisfy any guest living in SEZD from around the world, whether on a mission, working for a project or came for tourism and entertainment."

Many Opportunities in Logistics Sector

"The logistics and related services sector is a large sector in the world and we believe in the opportunities available in the Sultanate in general and SEZD in particular," stated Stephen.

He stressed that the works of the project are proceeding successfully. After scheduled opening in mid-2016, it shall provide a number of rooms for senior officials along with the means of recreation and entertainment, twin rooms, and rooms with 4 and 6 beds.

Project Key Indicators

total bed capacity	16960 beds
total land area	200000 square meters
construction area	177000 square meters
start-up date	April 2014
expected completion	Mid-2016

He indicated that they follow up government efforts to develop SEZD, implement infrastructure projects, build roads and water, electricity and communications networks, and process vital projects, such as the airport and Duqm Port. This is in addition to the specific investments, such as the Dry Dock and other projects under implementation. "There is no doubt that this will attract private capital gradually and contribute to the entrance of the local civil companies to work in SEZD," added Stephen.

About Renaissance Village

Renaissance Village Project in Duqm is part of a series of projects Renaissance Services Group started in April 2014. This village provides all types of accommodation to suit the functional levels of guests, along with food services, entertainment center, various shops, health clinic, laundry, and janitorial and security services.

This project is a pioneer in SEZD projects. It consists of an apartment complex

We invested USD 200 million to build an integrated city to keep pace with the aspirations of its population

Many opportunities available in the logistics sector and Duqm is ready for competition





Government investments in infrastructure are an attraction to private sector capital

that can accommodate up to 16 thousand people of all classes and functional levels and serve the needs of SEZD and other projects for functional housing for temporary employment during the construction period and permanent employment and operation of projects in SEZD.

The project, which is an architectural landmark in residential development projects in Duqm, adopted geometric designs commensurate with the spatial and cultural identity of SEZD. It is characterized by the diversity in the rooms it offers to suit the different functional levels.

Integrated Services Center

Integrated Services Center in Renais-

sance Village includes a number of facilities, such as restaurants, bakery commercial center, clinic, laundry, fitness center, business clearance office, maintenance center, playground, and services facilities. The service center shall offers a shuttle service to and from the workplace.

The project provides housing services and accommodations that rely on national and international standards and in accordance with the requirements of the International Labor Organization in terms of health conditions, public safety, welfare and the provision of support services. The project will provide these services based on economic efficiency, affordably and competitively.



3 months of work by 500 workers and the use of 2,000 tons of iron



"Olympic Leopard" at dock dry after conversion

Duqm -  :

Oman Dry Dock Company successfully converted the Greek ship "Olympic Leopard" from an iron and crude oil tanker to only crude oil tanker and delivered it in record time. This is the second ship from the Greek Springfield Marine Company converted in the dry dock in Duqm. This conversion took three months with the participation of 500 workers and the use of 2,000 tons of iron.

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdul-Malik bin Abdullah Al-Hinaey, Chairperson of Oman Dry Dock Company, stated that this conversion process was in the wake of a similar project completed by Oman Dry Dock successfully in January 2015. "This is the second project of its kind for the same company showing the confidence of the owner in the potentials of Oman Dry Dock Company and the ability and skills of its employees in dealing with this kind of business, which is among the company's priorities in the coming period. The company's vision is to become the best dry dock company in the Middle East. We always seek continued growth and development, which can only be achieved through the success in winning the confidence of clients," added Al-Hinaey.

For his part, Dr. Ahmad Al-Abri, Deputy CEO for operations, indicated that the ship entered the dry dock on 7 September 2015 for conversion and integrated maintenance, including paint, renewal of some parts, repair as well as multiple other works managed by an integrated team of technicians, engineers and specialists working in an environment of the highest quality standards.

On his part, Demetris Patricius, General Manager of Springfield Marine Company, expressed his pleasure to receive the ship, praising the conversion process conducted with high quality, as was the case with "Olympic Luck" ship converted in Duqm dry dock in early 2015. "I hope to have similar deals with Oman Dry Dock Company in the future based on the quality and strong business relationship that binds our company with the team of Oman Dry Dock Company," stated Patricius.

It is worth mentioning that since its inception in 2012 until the end of October 2015, Oman Dry Dock Company received more than 363 vessels of various sizes including giant crude oil tankers, container ships, liquefied natural gas tankers, chemicals ships and vehicles transport ships.

**Oman
Dry Dock
Company delivers the
second
successfully converted
Greek
ship**

CEO of Duqm Development Company:

We look forward to attracting 3000 people with the completion of the second phase of Duqm Frontier Town (DFT)

Interview by Mohammad bin Ahmad Al-Shezawi:

Sheikh Ibrahim bin Sultan Alhosni, CEO of Duqm Development Company, announced that the company would begin implementation of the second phase of Duqm Frontier Town by the end of this year (2016) or in the first quarter of next year.

In an exclusive interview for , he stated that the company finalized the concept master plan for the project and after approval of the Board of Directors, it shall proceed to prepare the detailed master plan and detailed designs for the services and buildings. "We expect to complete these during the fourth quarter of this year (2016), and commence construction of the second phase late this year or in the first quarter of 2017 after the completion of the remaining studies," stated Alhosni.

He pointed out that the second phase is complementary to the first phase officially inaugurated in 2014. "The company plans to make the town accommodate around 3000 people with the provision of various facilities that modern cities require. The first phase, which consists of 344 residential units (including 94 villas and 250 apartments), includes a Club House that has a gym, a large hall for team games, squash court, tennis court, playground for beach volleyball and two swimming pools one for women. The Club House has a branch of Bank Muscat, a restaurant and a range of shops. The company has provided all the services that the town needs such as roads, electricity, telephone, water, , main power plant and sewage treatment plant," elaborated the CEO.





New facilities in the second phase

"The second phase is planned to comprise of more than 1,000 residential units (villas, town houses, one- and two-bedroom apartments in addition to office space and shops). The master plan includes the construction of an international school, a shopping center, a hospital with 80 beds, and a mosque to serve the area and the people living close to the town. The club house will be expanded to accommodate larger numbers of users in line with the increase in population," added Alhosni.

He expects that the implementation of the second phase would take between 3 to 7 years. "The company's plan is to build according to need and in line with the expected increase in population density in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) and the level of demand for residential units. The company divided the second phase into several sub-phases to keep pace with the increasing population in SEZD, pointing out that the priority would be to the hospital, international school, residential units, and office building," stated Alhosni.

Company's investments

Duqm Development Company is one of the leading companies in SEZD. It is a government company owned by Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran) and Oman Dry Dock Company with an authorized capital of OMR100 million.

"The total investments of the company after the completion of the second phase of Duqm Frontier Town would be around OMR 115 million. The investment in the first phase amounted to around OMR 35 million while the expected investment in the second phase would be around OMR 80 million to be financed through shareholders, other investors and bank loans," explained Alhosni.

"The company's investments will not be limited to the construction of Duqm Frontier Town but will include some other investments that add good value to investors. We are in the process of studying the investment opportunities in Duqm.



After the company completes this study, it will develop a long-term strategy that shows all the projects that will be undertaken by the company for approval by the shareholders," mentioned Alhosni.

Demand for the town

Alhosni noted the level of demand for the town that aims to provide a distinctive experience for living in Duqm through a range of modern facilities and services. The second phase of the town will be more distinctive, and the new facilities, such as hospital, mosque, international school and the shopping center shall add many services to its residents and various people and visitors to SEZD."

Duqm Development Company received the "Residential Project of the Year 2014" from Construction Week in its third edition in recognition of the most important development and construction projects in the Sultanate. The company also received the award of "Louis Berger Building Project of the Year 2014" from MEED Projects. These awards reflect the innovative and modern designs and facilities of Duqm Frontier Town.

Alhosni commended the development witnessed by Duqm in recent years. "Duqm has changed drastically since we started the first phase of the town late 2010. Then, we needed nearly one hour to get to the project site because of the rugged road, but now we take only 10 minutes due to the paved and lit roads that connect you with most of the major components in SEZD, such as the airport, dry dock, and the various tourism, industrial, logistics,



We completed the initial designs for the second phase and expect implementation before the end of the first quarter of 2017

We are preparing a long-term strategy for the company that includes future projects and investments

Incentives provided to investors and the construction of the refinery and railway add a global dimension to Duqm



Al-Hosni speaking to the editor-in-chief

The second phase includes establishment of an international school, a shopping center, a hospital and 1,000 residential units

We expect the company's investments in Duqm to rise to about OMR115 with the completion of the second phase

Providing a distinctive living experience in Duqm through a range of modern facilities and services

and residential areas. SEZD has witnessed the implementation of some important tourism projects, such as the Crowne Plaza Hotel in which work began at the same period we started the project and both completed at the same time. Moreover, City and Park Inn hotels are currently working while workers' pac-housing and villas for the Duqm people are underway. All these additions give a significant advantage to SEZD," continued Alhosni

Activating the economic movement in Duqm

Alhosni highlighted the added value of the company to activate the economic movement in Duqm. He stated that the main role entrusted to the company was providing an integrated residential area that makes it easier for companies and institutions to attract skilled work force to work and live in Duqm. The government was aware that it should provide some of the key components that make it easier for staff to reside in Duqm with their families, notably adequate housing and recreational facilities. Accordingly, we have constructed this town, and we are now in the process of completing other facilities, such as the hospital, school, and shopping center in addition to residential units. He stressed the efforts of the company is complementary to the efforts of other government companies and institutions.

Regarding the projects currently undertaken by the company, Sheikh Ibrahim bin Sultan Alhosni said that the company is currently completing the components of the town. "It awarded the tender to build the operation and maintenance building. It contains offices and integrated accommodation for the staff of the Department of Facility Management. It is expected to complete the construction of this

building in September 2016."

Promising future for Duqm

Sheikh Ibrahim bin Sultan Alhosni, CEO of Duqm Development Company expressed his optimism in the promising future of SEZD stating that Duqm is a promising area characterized by its strategic location. "Duqm is at the crossroads of maritime routes between the Asian, African and European countries. This big advantage helps in facilitating trade exchange between those areas provided the professional planning of the logistics sites for investors, exporters, and suppliers. The construction of the refinery, extending the rail, overcoming obstacles and facilitating the procedures for external investors will add a global dimension to SEZD and enable it to attract the best international companies to invest therein. The positive elements that will encourage investment in SEZD include the completion of infrastructure facilities, such as the port, rail, airport, road networks, electricity, water, telephone, and sewage. These components will have a significant role in encouraging investors to invest in SEZD. In addition, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) offers many incentives for investors such as tax exemption for 30 years, renewable for similar periods. In addition, the capital required for the establishment of any company does not exceed OMR 1. The Omanization rate is set at 10%. All these factors will encourage investment in SEZD. However, SEZAD should reconsider the grace period for payment of usufruct fees of land as major strategic projects need a grace period ranging from 5 to 10 years from the start of the company's activity or operation of its project. This step shall encourage more companies to invest in SEZD," concluded Alhosni.





Part of audience at the second Logistics Forum

MOU with “Oman Trains”

Duqm Port intensifies its meetings with logistics companies

Muscat -  :

Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of Duqm Port Company, indicated that the company is constantly working to intensify cooperation with oil and gas and logistics companies and seeks to hold specialized forums annually with various relevant authorities.

In a speech delivered at the second Logistics Forum held by Duqm Port Company in December 2015, he stated that “the forum seeks to introduce the latest developments in services provided by the Port. These meetings promote ways of direct and rapid communication with service providers and Port users,” stressed Vermeulen.

During the Forum, Duqm Port Company presented its plans and programs for 2016. “We believe that development is a continuous process and competition always lies in the level of services provided by the Port. Therefore, the company continually trains a number of Omani cadres to enable them to perform various tasks through the company’s technical staff and an international expertise house,” added CEO of Duqm Port Company.

MOU with Oman Trains

On the other hand, Duqm Port Company signed an MOU with Oman Trains Company in December 2015 for joint commercial development and construction of commercial shipping corridors to enable optimum economic investment of the possibilities of infrastructure for both train network and Duqm Port.

The MOU includes the construction and de-

velopment of the railway corridor to link Duqm Port with regional markets to maximize the benefit of mineral resources in SEZD, transfer of containers and cargo to and from the Port and serve storage units projects.

Both companies will develop a set of railway sub-lines to support loading and unloading operations, storage and some maintenance to serve the industrial zone at Duqm Port. Duqm Port Company also intends to provide a package of facilities in the logistics field, such as loading and unloading of all contractors and suppliers associated with the construction of this project.

Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of Duqm Port Company, indicated that linking Duqm Port with the railway project would provide highly efficient logistical and technical support for cargo operations at the Port. “The railway project will be a key factor to facilitate the flow of goods through dedicated lanes that extend to the industrial zones producing oil and gas. This would also facilitate the passage of large amounts of minerals and containers, which will serve to highlight Duqm Port as an attractive investment destination in the Sultanate.

Since its early operation in March 2013, Duqm Port received more than 200 different cargo ships destined for the Sultanate.

Duqm Port Company plays three major roles: management and operation of Port terminals, marketing and management of logistics area within the boundaries of the Port, and financing, development, management and marketing of 2,000 hectares in the industrial and petrochemical area of the Port.


Construction and development of the railway corridor to link Duqm Port with regional markets

Logistics Performance and its Role in Seaports Competitiveness

The concept of logistics has a military origin. It was first used to secure the arrival of supplies and ammunition to the armies in a timely and appropriate manner. The concept of logistics was applied during World War II, where it was one of the victory factors of the Allied armies. After World War II ended, studies aimed to apply logistics in the field of business in what is known as Business Logistics started to emerge. Studies conducted in this area indicated that between 15-20% of the cost of production of any commodity in the developed countries comes from logistics activities.

As most companies in these countries use similar production techniques, it was only possible to achieve or strengthen competitive advantage through reducing the cost of logistics activities. These consist of the supporting activities of the productive process. These include the activities before production, such as the purchase, transport, and storage, insurance and banking transactions of raw materials, activities that occur during the production process, such as internal handling, or operations that take place after the completion of the production process, i.e. packaging, promotion, storage, transportation, insurance and after-sales service. Perhaps the most important characteristics of logistics activities from those that took place before the emergence of this concept are two. The first is that these activities take place in an integrative way to benefit from the economies of scale. The second is that these activities take place under the umbrella of information systems.

Given the unprecedented increase in global competition in the current era, this has led to a focus on logistics as one of the key elements in achieving competitive advantage. Excellence in global distribution chains depends on the ability of the institution concerned to transport its goods across international borders quickly and efficiently and at lower cost. Information technology and economic liberalization policies adopted by many countries have contributed to creating huge opportunities to get the products of these countries to world markets. The countries that managed to link to these networks have been successful in dealing with markets in countries thousands of kilometers away.

Logistics services market has seen unprecedented developments over the past three decades because of the spread of globalization, significant increase in trade of goods and services and the huge progress in information technology. In addition, many productive enterprises chose to focus their activity on the production process itself and contract with other specialized companies to perform the comple-

mentary activities.

It is known that logistics services are based in the transfer of goods between the producer and the consumer within the state or the region. However, the new trend that has made the huge boom in these services is what happened through the global economy movement over the last three decades and the enormous increase in the volume of trade exchange in two different countries or even in two different continents thousands of kilometers away.

One of the most important factors that have helped the expansion of the logistics services has been the major expansion in the use of ICT and Internet networks. On the supply side, providers of logistics services have been able to achieve complete control over the flow of huge volumes of goods across continents and between countries using information technology and advanced computers to serve all the series of services they do. These include the techniques that enable them to link the production, transportation, storage and customers' orders to get goods in the set time and place.

These techniques and facilities have also enabled the producer to rely entirely on intermediary dealers or retailers and helped reduce inventory significantly, as well as operation and production as per demand known in advance. All these logistics activities take place between the producer, service provider and the consumer in the context of e-logistics using systems of demand management, shipment follow-up, direct services to consumer, and paperless shipping documents for customs procedures.

E-commerce has opened up huge areas of logistics activities. Traditional trade was of huge quantities of goods while in e-commerce number of shipments increased unprecedentedly and dealings were directly between the producer and the consumer without intermediaries. This type of trade is usually made up of large numbers of small-sized shipments and is distributed widely among many consumers.

The logistics performance is measured by the following criteria:

- 1) Efficiency of customs procedures and other bodies working at the borders or ports of countries.
- 2) Quality of transport and information technology available to the logistics infrastructure.
- 3) Easiness and appropriateness of costs of international shipping arrangements.
- 4) Efficiency of the local logistics system.
- 5) Ability to track the movement of goods.



- 6) Domestic logistics costs.
- 7) Least time to reach the goal.

Those areas were selected based on modern research and in-depth discussion among experts in the field of international cargo logistics. Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) combines all those areas according to weights commensurate with their respective importance to provide an opportunity to compare the different countries in a standard manner.

PBL and its indicators are on a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). It is possible to use this measure to clarify other performance measures. For example, if PBL in a country (X) is less than its counterpart in another country (Z) by one point or 2.5 versus 3.5, this means that the imported goods to country (X) take 6 days more than in country (Z) to go from the port to the warehouses of the company concerned and 3 days more in export. Moreover, this point may represent a five times probability of eye inspection of goods when they arrive in the port of country (X) compared to country (Z).

PBL gives the countries a way to measure their progress in the field of logistics and helps them set targets and measure progress in achieving these objectives in a standard manner that enjoys a high degree of transparency. It should be noted that many entities, especially international companies wishing to invest in other than their countries, expressed as Direct Foreign Investment (DFI), benefit from PBL and its indicators when comparing their alternatives with the site of their production firms because logistics is significant in the field of competitiveness of those companies.

- In developed countries, where international trade is an important element in economic growth, logistics performance is much better than other countries with the same per capita income but are not in the same category as regards the role of international trade in the economy.

- The level of logistics performance in a large number of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is less than expected when compared to the level of per capita income. This is due to the lack of incentive or pressure factors from the private sector to implement the institutional reforms required for the lifting of international trade and transport performance level, which reflects the

basic dependence on oil. On the contrary, in some emerging economies that rely on export industries, the private sector is the main player for reform in the field of logistics.

- There are significant differences between countries that face the same logistical difficulties. For example, landlocked Eastern Africa that enjoy efficient logistics services work in a high competitive environment that has a logistics performance level much better than those that do not have ports but their logistics suffer from administrative the problems and ineffective institutions.

- There is a close relationship between diversity in export and logistics performance. Performance index increases when the types of goods exported vary.

- Countries with advanced level of logistics performance benefit from globalization more than the countries that have a lower level do.

- Countries with advanced level are characterized by a highly efficient global logistics network and thus have a greater ability to attract foreign direct investment interested in exports.

God has bestowed on Oman a strategic location that allows its seaports to play an important role in the system of international logistics services. This role must depend on massive investments in infrastructure, giant handling equipment, modern operating systems and the use of the latest technology in container and cargo handling to and from vessels. Therefore, the Sultanate of Oman pumped huge investments in infrastructure for maritime transport services. It has developed laws, regulations and procedures associated with foreign trade transactions and developed its financial and management systems to engage effectively in the global trade system to achieve the advantage of the geographical location of the Sultanate of Oman, and achieve economic returns appropriate for huge investments spent in seaports and economic zones. In this way, these investments would play their role in economic and social development of the various regions of the country.

*** Dr. Ayman Al-Nahrawy has a number of published works that discussed this subject, including his book *Logistics Management* issued by Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jamie, Alexandria, 2015.**

Director of one-stop station in an interview for  :

Attracting investments of OMR 242.3 million for the private sector in 2015



Interviewed by Saleh Al-Ma'amari:

Saleh bin Homoud Al-Hassani, Director of one-stop station at SEZAD, indicated that the one-stop station granted more than one million square meters of land in SEZD to local and international investors during 2015, explaining that the investment value of these projects is estimated at about OMR 242.3 million.

He added in an interview for that SEZAD granted 42 projects land usufruct last year. "These projects varied in sizes and types. 2015 was one of the years that promise positive results. This investment confirms the success of the promotion and marketing efforts of SEZD," stated Al-Hassani.

He pointed out that SEZAD attracted a variety of investments in 2015, including commercial, industrial, fishery, commercial, residential, and tourism sectors. "There is good interest from domestic and international businesspeople in the various projects. There are also other requests for new activities we hope with time Duqm would be one of its most important venues. Several private sector project shall start construction works during 2016," indicated Al-Hassani.





Some one-stop station staff and unremitting efforts to provide better services to investors

Vital Projects

"We aspire to attract vital projects that keep pace with the requirements of residence in SEZD and serve the community. The signs of investments are promising. There is the private hospital project, which will start its operations during the current year. It confirms the belief of the private sector to establish dynamic and service projects in Duqm. We expect 2016 to witness an external attention by European countries to settle their industries in SEZD. There are talks to attract an Australian project in the tourism sector and real estate development," added the one-stop station Director regarding the projects on which SEZAD focuses.

He explained that SEZAD would focus during 2016 to attract new and different segments and sectors promoted locally and internationally. "We look forward to the localization of quality of industries whether large, medium or small. We target outstanding businesspeople who wish to invest in quality projects. There are ongoing discussions with many investors from East Asia, especially from China, and that there is some interest from local investors."

Tourist Area

"There are three requests in the tourist area, most notably a project from an Australian investor. This is a major project we hope it would add more dynamism to SEZD. We concluded its agreement in 2015 with a capital of USD 500 million. Its area would be 450 thousand square meters under the name of Duqm Beach project. The project consists of a 5-star hotel, a 4-star hotel, restaurants and mall. The first phase shall be for tourism and other commercial activities with residential facilities to meet the housing demands. We expect that the implementation of the first phase will start at the beginning in 2016 and the project with its various stages shall complete over five years and provide up to 1000 job opportunities by 2020. This investor is also looking for alliances with local investors in the Sultanate to complete the project," elaborated Al-Hassani.

He expected work in other tourism projects to start during the current year, including some restaurants, pointing out that there are requests from small and medium-sized enterprises to set up projects concerned with providing tourism services. "This shows the interest of the private sector in this project, which will play an important role in SEZD development," added Al-Hassani.

Industrial Area

"We have 9 investment requests in the industrial area, notably the one by Sebacic Oman Company to set up a production plant of sebacic acid extracted from castor oil and used in many

chemical industries, including plastics and medicines. The investment cost of the project is about OMR 24 million with an area of about 400 thousand square meters. This factory will be the first of its kind for castor oil in the Middle East," indicated Al-Hassani.

"In fact, this is a quality project and is one of the projects that will open up many different industrial prospects and employ and settle new industries. The company is now in the process of settling administrative staff for this project. It rent a building in SEZD and will start construction operations during the current year."

Commercial Projects

Al-Hassani pointed out that the number of commercial projects, which SEZAD granted land usufruct in 2015, is eight, mostly from the local private sector and investors. These projects include the construction of commercial small and medium-sized buildings that serve SEZD, including the provision of services. He explained that these buildings would contribute to meeting the demand for rental of stores for light projects, such as barbershops, travel offices, and engineering consultancy.

He pointed out that last year also witnessed signing land usufruct agreement of an Italian project to establish smart offices. "This is a unique project in the Sultanate. It is in its final stages to obtain special approvals to the shapes of these offices, which are old containers refurbished and reclaimed to be more attractive. Then, the company will equip them with office requirements and provide them with modern technology and decoration. It shall then lease them. We count on this project to shorten the time for a lot of companies to settle their projects in Duqm in a quick and easy manner," elaborated Al-Hassani.

One-Stop Station

"In 2015, the team of one-stop station completed several businesses and approvals related to investors and businesspeople. We finalized many regulations, such as the Regulation on Registration of Companies and regulations on investment, environmental permits, urban planning and organizing usufruct right. We had to finalize these regulations in accordance with Royal Decree No. 119/2011 and Royal Decree No. 79/2013. We are now qualifying human resources to provide the best services to investors."

In conclusion, the director of the one-stop station praised the growing interest by local and foreign investors, pointing out that SEZAD offers many incentives to investors, as well as large areas of land allocated for investment, tax exemptions and granting usufruct for long periods up to 50 years, renewable for similar periods.

Allocation of more than one million square meters of land for investment in a variety of projects

We aspire to attract vital projects that keep pace with the requirements of residence in SEZD and serve the community

We expect this year to witness the start of construction works for industrial, tourism and commercial projects in SEZD

Attractive legislation to place Duqm on world in- vestment map (2-3)

Duqm :

The legislative environment receives the attention of SEZAD as main route to achieve justice among the various investors and prepare SEZD to compete locally and globally. The laws and legislation prepared by SEZAD since its founding in 2011 target the development of SEZD on the global investment map.

According to regulations issued in 2015, SEZAD seeks to provide an encouraging investment environment through a number of legislations including the Regulation on Organizing the Investment Environment in SEZD, which organizes licensing the economic activities. It stipulates that it is impermissible for projects to engage in any economic activity within SEZD before obtaining a license from SEZAD.

In 2015, SEZAD also issued the Regulation of Environmental Permits, which emphasizes the importance of preserving the environment in the various projects implemented in SEZD. SEZAD is the entity that issues the environmental permits for projects and take the necessary environmental measures. The Regulation stresses that projects may not operate or amend their activities before obtaining an environmental permit from SEZAD.

To achieve the benefit of these legislations, published the Regulation on Organizing the Investment Environment and Regulation of Environmental Permits and shall publish the remaining regulations in the April issue.



Decision No. 323 /2015

Issuing the Regulation organizing the Investment Environment 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 investment environment at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

Article Two

The projects, whether in the form of a sole proprietorship, company, branch of a company or foreign firm and the professional and handicraft activities existing at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm on the date this Regulation has come into force must 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

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

Article Four

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 1436 hijri

Corresponding to: 8 July 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.

The Regulation organizing the Investment Environment at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

Chapter One Definitions and General Provisions

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 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

Projects: The projects 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.

Permit: The approval issued by the Authority to the project to practice an economic activity at the Zone.

Article (2)

Provisions of this Regulation shall apply to the Enterprises that practice an economic activity. In case that there is no special text provided for thereon in this Regulation and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, provisions of the laws, regulations and rules relevant to the licensed activity, in force in the Sultanate, shall apply thereto.

Article (3)

Licensing to practice any economic activity under the jurisdiction of another body is subject to the consent of that body before starting the activity.

Chapter Two Licensing Procedures

Article (4)

No Enterprise shall engage in any economic activity within the Zone, except after obtaining a license therefor from the Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

In case of any Enterprise wishes to practice more than one activity within the Zone, the subject Enterprise must obtain a license for each activity in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation and the decisions issued in implementation thereof.

Article (5)

No Enterprise shall start outfitting any facility or carrying out any preparatory works, except after submitting a license application and obtaining the preliminary approval of the Authority in ac-

cordance with the provisions of Article (8) of this Regulation.

Article (6)

No Enterprise shall be licensed to practice any prohibited or restricted activity except after satisfying the legally prescribed conditions and procedures for lifting the prohibition or restriction.

Article (7)

The licensing application shall be submitted to the Authority by the proprietor or his legal representative on the form prepared for this purpose, attaching therewith the documents determined in the mentioned form.

The Authority may request the documents and data that it deems necessary to decide on the license application, and the application shall be deemed canceled if the applicant has not provided all the documents specified in the form within twenty (20) business days from the date of the notification thereof.

Article (8)

The Authority must study the license application and verify that the necessary documents and data have been satisfied and issue the temporary preliminary approval or reject it, stating the reasons therefor, within (15) fifteen business days from the date of submission of the application, along with the necessary documents and data.

The concerned bodies are prohibited from engaging in practicing any activity except after obtaining the final license.

Article (9)

The issued temporary preliminary approval

No projects may engage in any economic activity in SEZD without first obtaining a license from SEZAD

shall be coupled with defining the conditions to be met, until such time as the legally prescribed inspection procedures on the facility are conducted, following the setup and outfitting of the facility, during the specified deadline to enable the issuance of the final license.

Article (10)

The economic activities contained in the table attached to this Regulation are subject to inspection by the Authority before the issuance of the license and engagement in practicing the economic activity.

Article (11)

In case that the Authority has become convinced that the conditions required for practicing the economic activity have not been met, the Authority may take one of the following two actions:

1. Grant the Enterprise a final deadline to satisfy the conditions necessary for practicing the activity.
2. Reject the license application and in which case the temporary preliminary approval shall be deemed as "not issued".

Article (12)

The Applicant must, after meeting all the conditions contained in the temporary preliminary approval for practicing the activity, notify the Authority thereof for obtaining the final license.

The Authority shall, after making sure that all the conditions have been met, issue the final license within (15) fifteen business days from the date it has received the notification from the Applicant.

Article (13)

The term of the license is (1) one year from the date of issue, renewable for a similar period or other similar periods based on an application submitted by the concerned body within not less than (30) thirty days before the expiry of the term, subject to meeting all of the legally prescribed conditions and payment of the prescribed fee.

In case of rejection of the licensing application or renewal thereof, the rejection decision must be justified.

Article (14)

The Applicant shall be notified of the rejection decision of his application at the address recorded in the license application, however the concerned body may contest the rejection decision by submitting an application thereof to the Chairman within (60) sixty business days from the date the rejection notification has been served to him, stating therein the reasons for the appeal and the supporting documents thereof, along with a copy of the contested decision.

Article (15)

The appeal shall be reviewed and a decision be taken thereon, either by accepting or rejecting, within not more than (30) thirty business 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 shall be deemed

as "acceptable". In all cases, the decision of the Chairman on the appeal is final.

Chapter Three Obligations and Prohibitions

Article (16)

The Authority may request the documents and data it may deem appropriate or carry out inspections to verify that the enterprises that have been licensed to practice the economic activity within the Zone are committed to the provisions of this Regulation, conditions of the licenses issued to them and the laws in force in the Sultanate.

Article (17)

The Enterprises that have been licensed to practice the economic activity at the Zone shall be committed to the following:

1. Observe the Sultanate's obligations in pursuance to the international agreements relevant to the licensed economic activity.
2. Be committed to the laws in force in the Sultanate, the regulations and decisions issued by the Authority.
3. Abide by the conditions contained in the licenses issued to them.
4. Maintain the necessary registers and provide the data and information determined by the Authority.
5. Pay, on time, the legally payable fees and taxes.
6. Collaborate with the law enforcement employees of the Authority, enable them to discharge their legally prescribed functions and facilitate the performance of their work.
7. Notify the Authority immediately of any amendments may occur in the data contained in the licenses issued to them or in the headquarters of their businesses.
8. Abide by the prescribed Omanisation percentages.

Article (18)

The Enterprises that have been licensed to practice the economic activity at the Zone are prohibited from the following:

1. Practice any activity other than the ones specified in the licenses issued to them.
2. Concede the license without written approval from the Authority.
3. Modify the legal form of the Enterprise without written approval from the Authority.
4. Take any action that may impede the work at the Zone, contravene with its objectives or threaten the security of the enterprises, investors, their employees and residents or expose their safety to danger.
5. Possess goods originating in the countries the Sultanate has decided to economically boycott them.
6. Possess spoiled, impaired or expired foodstuff, or has negative impact on the environment.
7. Possess goods carrying writings, drawings or signs that contravene with the beliefs,



Preliminary approval of economic activities within 15 working days



The license period of one renewable year and SEZAD rejection decision must be justified

Regulation on Organizing the Investment Environment in SEZD allows appeal of rejection decisions within 60 days from notification

Projects shall not engage in any activity other than the specific activity in their licenses

Projects shall comply with the obligations of the Sultanate prescribed under the relevant international conventions related to economic activity

teachings, and concepts of Monotheistic religions or contradict with the ethics and morals.

8. Possess goods that violate the intellectual property protection, and the industrial, commercial, literary and artistic laws in force in the Sultanate.

9. Possess goods that are banned entry into the Sultanate.

10. Violate the conditions and requirements of public health, safety and environment preservation.

Chapter Four Cancellation and Suspension of Licensing

Article (19)

The license issued to the enterprise shall be cancelled in the following cases:

1. If it has proved that the license has been issued based on incorrect data and information or forged documentations.

2. If it has proved that the enterprise has practiced one of the activities that are prohibited to be practiced at the Zone.

3. Upon the request of the licensed enterprise.

Article (20)

The Authority may suspend the license issued to the enterprise or impose an administrative fine of not more than (100,000) Hundred Thousand Omani Rials or both penalties in the following cases:

1. In case the enterprise violates any of the conditions contained the license.

2. Violate any of the laws in force in the Sultanate, the regulations and decisions issued

by the Authority.

3. Cease to practice the licensed activity for more than (3) three months without acceptable reasons.

4. Conduct any work that, directly or indirectly, threatens the public health, public safety or environment preservation at the Zone.

5. Failure to pay the fees or any other amounts due to the State on time.

6. Sale of the whole facilities and technical installations erected by the enterprises on the rented lands without notifying the Authority.

In case of persistence of the violation after suspension of the license or imposition of the fine, the Authority may consider cancellation of the license.

Article (21)

The Authority may not suspend the license issued to the Enterprise in the cases provided for in Article (20) of this Regulation before notifying the concerned body of the violation attributed to the Enterprise and determine the deadline for removal and elapse of the said deadline without removal of the reasons of the violation.

Article (22)

The concerned body may contest the decision issued on the suspension of the license or cancellation thereof based on an application submitted to the Chairman within (60) sixty days from the date of the notification. The appeal must be decided thereon within (30) thirty days from the date of submission.

In case of elapse of the said period without any decision being taken thereon, the decision will be deemed as "acceptable". In all cases, the decision of the Chairman on the appeal is final.

Table of the economic activities subject to inspection by the Authority before granting the final license and engagement in practicing the economic activity

S/N	Economic Activity
1	Storage and transportation of petroleum and its derivatives
2	Storage and transportation of natural and liquefied gas
3	Heavy industries
4	Food industries
5	Pharmaceutical industries
6	Restaurants
7	Cinemas
8	Commercial complexes
9	Chemical materials warehouses
10	Foodstuff warehouses
11	Schools and scientific institutes
12	Health centers and hospitals
13	Nurseries
14	Liquid, solid and dangerous wastes disposal installations
15	Disposal installations for liquid, solid and dangerous wastes

Decision No. 326 / 2015

Issuing the Regulation organizing the environmental 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 fourth meeting held on 31 December 2014;

And on the basis of public interest,

It has been decided

Article One

Provisions of the attached Regulation shall apply to regulating the environmental permits at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

Article Two

The Enterprises existing at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm as on the date of enforcement of the provisions of the attached Regulation shall regularize their situations in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation within one year from the date of enforcement of the Regulation.

Article Three

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

Article Four

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

Issued on: 26 Ramadhan 1436 hijri

Corresponding to: 13th July 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.

The Regulation organizing the environmental 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 purpose of establishing the economic and service projects and other projects, the boundaries and location of which are shown in the Scheme attached to Royal Decree No. 119/2011 and Royal Decree No. 44/2014 referred to above.

Chairman: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Authority

Law: The circulation system and usage of chemicals issued in pursuance to Royal Decree No. 46/95, Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act promulgated by Royal Decree No. 114/2001, Protection of Drinking Water Sources from Pollution issued by Royal Decree No. 115/2001, and Natural Reserves and Conservation of Fungal Biology promulgated by Royal Decree No. 6 / 2003.

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, development, building and reconstructions works.

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.

Article (2)

Provisions of this Regulation shall apply to the enterprises, however in case that there is no special text provided for thereon in this Regulation and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, provisions of the relevant laws and regulations, in force in the Sultanate, shall apply.

Article (3)

The Authority shall issue the necessary environmental permits for the enterprises and take the necessary environmental measures.

No enterprises shall practice their activities or make any amendments thereon before obtaining an environmental permit from the Authority in accordance with the form prepared for this purpose.

Article (4)

The Authority may not issue any environmental permits to the enterprises, except after verifying the availability of the environmental requirements prescribed in accordance with the provisions of the law and this Regulation.

Article (5)

The Authority may issue the following environmental permits:

1. Preliminary Environmental Permit: will be granted before the enterprise starts the setting up process, for a period not exceeding one year, renewable for a similar period or other similar periods.
2. Final Environmental Permit: will be granted after the enterprise completes the setting up process, for a period not exceeding two years, renewable for a similar period or other similar periods.
3. Temporary Environmental Permit: will be granted to the temporary enterprises, infrastructure projects and completed projects for a period of one year, renewable.

In all cases, the permits contained in the previous paragraphs will expire with the expiration of the purpose for which it has been issued.

Article (6)

The projects contained in the table annexed to this Regulation must prepare a potential environmental impacts assessment study, prepared by a specialized environmental consultancy office, subject to the Authority's approval of the elements of the study and the responsible staff thereof.

The Authority may exempt projects from the environmental impact assessment study with respect to the potential environmental impact assessment for the site of the project only in case that the site is part of a development project that has previously obtained an environmental permit.

In all cases, projects must comply with the recommendations contained in the potential environmental impact assessment study.

Article (7)

The application for obtaining the environmental permit shall be submitted on the form prepared for this purpose by the proprietor of the project or his legal representative, attaching therewith the documents and data determined by the Authority.

The Authority may request the documents and data and carry out the inspections it deems necessary to decide on the application for obtaining the environmental permit.

Article (8)

The Authority must study the application and decide thereon, upon meeting all the documents and data and carry out the required inspections, within not more than (40) forty days. In case of elapse of the mentioned period without any decision being taken on the application, the decision is deemed as "acceptable". In case that the application for the environmental permit has been rejected, the decision must be justified.

Article (9)

The Applicant for the environmental permit shall be notified of the decision thereon at the address recorded in the application within (5) five business

Regulation of Environmental Permits in SEZD stresses the importance of preserving the environment and sets strict penalties on violators

days, and the concerned body may contest the decision in case of rejection before the Chairman within (60) sixty days from the date of the notification or the date he has become aware for sure of the rejection of his application, stating therein the reasons for the appeal and attaching therewith the supporting documents.

Article (10)

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 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 final.

Article (11)

The Authority may undertake the required field visits to the project in order to verify, from all aspects, the extent of adherence to the prescribed environmental standards and conditions.

Article (12)

The projects that are practicing any of the economic activities established by a decision from the Chairman shall be committed to record the data on the quantities and types of wastes resulting from the activity and the laboratory tests conducted thereon, results of the self-assessment on the environmental control it has conducted and any other data the Authority deems appropriate for registration, in accordance with the registration form prepared by the Authority for this purpose.

The Authority shall determine, in coordination with the National Documents and Archives Authority, the required period to maintain this record and the disclosure procedures of the data contained therein.

The information and data contained in the environmental record of the project is considered confidential and the staff of the Authority shall not disclose such information except in the legally authorized cases.

Article (13)

At the request of the Authority, projects shall be committed to conduct an environmental review to assess the performance of the economic activity from an environmental perspective in order to identify the shortcomings and gaps that may cause certain environmental pollution, and then put in place a corrective plan to fill the gaps and correct the environmental situation of the economic activity, in the following cases:

1. Occurrence of an accident within the project which may result in environmental contamination.
2. If the inspection results of the project revealed an environmental contamination.
3. If the project exists on the date the provisions of this Regulation entered into force, and is ranked among the projects contained in the table annexed to this Regulation.
4. If the environmental review is necessary in accordance with the recommendations contained in the environmental impact assessment study.

5. Any other cases the Authority may decide. The environmental review must be conducted by a specialized environmental consultancy office, subject to approval of the Authority of the elements of the review and the staff responsible thereof.

In all cases, projects must be committed to implement the recommendations contained in the environmental review report within the deadline determined by the Authority.

Article (14)

The Authority shall have the right to carry out environmental inspections on the projects to verify their compliance with the provisions of the law and this Regulation and other environmental standards and requirements established by the Authority, as follows:

1. Periodic inspection: Provided that the project is notified within at least three days.
2. Subsequent inspection: To verify that the environmental violation contained in the periodic report has been rectified within the period prescribed by the Authority, provided that the project is notified thereof within at least three days.



Projects shall not operate or amend their activity before obtaining an environmental permit from SEZAD

Data of the environmental record of the project are confidential and SEZAD staff may only disclose them in the legally stipulated cases

Attention to legislative environment is a key entrance to achieve justice among the various investors and pre-prepare SEZD to compete locally and globally

Projects required to conduct an EIA shall appoint a specialized environmental consulting office and obtains SEZAD approval on the elements of the study and those who would conduct it

3. Surprise inspections: In cases as the Authority may decide.

Article (15)

The substances that are prohibited entry into the Zone for environmental reasons shall be determined by a decision from the Chairman.

Article (16)

In case of prove of entry of prohibited substances into the Zone, the Authority shall authorize the project to either remove them out of the Zone or destroy them, as appropriate, at its own expense.

The Authority may also remove such substances or destroy them at the project's expense and without prejudice to its right of recourse to the concerned body with the expenses it has incurred thereon and to pay the prescribed compensation for the sustained damaged.

Article (17)

The Authority may, in case of the project has failed to meet its obligations prescribed in the law or this Regulation and in other decisions and instructions issued by the Authority, take one or more of the following actions:

1. Warn the concerned project and notify it to correct the situation within a specific deadline.
2. Impose an administrative fine not exceeding OMR (200,000) Two Hundred Thousand Omani Rials.
3. Suspend the project for a period not exceeding six (6) months.
4. Cancel the environmental permit.

The Authority may not suspend the project or cancel the environmental permit in the two cases cited in items (3 & 4) of this Article, except after notifying the project of the violation attributed thereto, determining a deadline for correcting the violation and the expiration of the mentioned deadline without correcting

the violation.

Article (18)

The proprietor of the project or his legal representative shall be notified of the decision issued in accordance with the provision of Article (17) of this Regulation at the address recorded in the registers of the Authority. The concerned body may contest the decision, in case of rejection, in front of the Chairman within (60) sixty days from the date of the notification or the date he has become aware for sure that his application has been rejected, stating the reasons for the appeal and attaching therewith the supporting documents.

Article (19)

The Authority must study the appeal and take a decide thereon, either by accepting or rejecting, within not more than (30) thirty days from the date of submission thereof and notify the concerned body of the result of the appeal. In case of elapse of the mentioned period without any decision being taken on the appeal, the decision is deemed as "acceptable". In all cases, the decision issued by the Chairman is final.

Article (20)

The proprietor of the project, his legal representative or the employees therein must enable the concerned employees of the Authority to enter the project, facilitate their work, give them access to the records and provide them with the data and information or the samples they may request.

Article (21)

The Chairman, upon consent of the Ministry of Finance, shall determine the fee payable to the Authority against issuing the environmental permits and approvals and the environmental services rendered for implementing the provisions of the law and the regulations in implementing thereof.

Table of the projects requiring preparation of potential environmental impact assessment study

S/N	Name of Project
1	Development and management of industrial estates
2	Development and management of logistic materials storage sites with an area of 10 hectares or more
3	Development and management of fishing harbors and fish industry facilities complexes
4	Development and management of parks, chemicals and petroleum storages with an area of 5 hectares or more
5	Development and management of touristic villages with an area of 10 hectares or more
6	Petroleum refineries, chemical and petrochemical industries
7	Heavy industries
8	Dangerous and non-dangerous wastes landfill, treatment and disposal facilities
9	Establishment of port wharfs
10	Fish husbandry with production capacity of more than 500 tons per annum for the habituated types and any production capacity for the strange types
11	Electric power generating facilities (Except gas and renewable energy operating facilities)
12	Seawater desalination facilities with production capacity of more than one million cubic meters per annum

2015 in Pictures



Delegation from State Council headed by Dr. Yahya bin Mahfouz Al-Munziri, President of the Council, visits SEZD

January 7



Start of a series of local induction seminars on SEZD from Wilayat of Khasab in Musandam Governorate

January 12



January 25

"Fiona Adler", Sheriff of London and Deputy Mayor of financial and business district visits Duqm



January 21

Signing an MOU with Al-Ahli Bank to provide funding for Duqm projects



Opening Park Inn Hotel & Resort Duqm under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Timor Al Said

January 29



January 26

Italian delegation specializing in ports, transport, and construction and infrastructure sectors visits Duqm



Sayyid Kamel bin Fahd visits projects implemented in Duqm

April 29



Sayyid Kamel bin Fahd opens the Second Duqm Forum: Society and Economy

April 29



Heads of unions and Arab and Gulf Chambers of Commerce visit SEZAD

May 5



SEZAD signs three land usufruct agreements with local companies within the activities of the Second Duqm Forum: Society and Economy

April 29



Polish trade delegation headed by H.E. Katarzyna Kacperczyk, Undersecretary of State for Economic Diplomacy, the Americas, Asia and Europe, visits Duqm

May 7



SEZAD grants Duqm Beach Company land usufruct for the construction of Duqm Beach Tourism Resort

May 13



SEZAD grants Sebacic Oman Company land usufruct to establish Sebacic acid production plant

May 10



SEZAD signs an MOU with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organize cooperation between the two parties

June 30



Signing an MOU with the Ministry of Manpower to organize cooperation between the two parties

June 29



Opening of Duqm Police Complex and graduation of police recruits

October 20



Launch of the promotional campaign for Duqm in Tehran under the them (Duqm Invites You)

September 28



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Headlines for the Future

Duqm Police Compound, completion of the remaining packages of the port and airport, commencement of work in the refinery through settlement of its allocated land, and development of the city center are the headlines of the projects done in SEZAD over the past year. They add a lot to this city that is coming vigorously to occupy a special position among world industrial cities.

Duqm Police Compound is equipped with lots of facilities and services that keep pace with the growth and investment enthusiasm seen in SEZD. It is not just a police station, but an integrated services complex that provides visa services, issues Omani passports civil cards to citizens, residence cards for expatriates, provides traffic and customs services and as well as civil defense and ambulance services in addition to its key role in maintaining security.

The completion of the remaining packages of Duqm Port means that the port is already preparing for full operation. At the same time, there are efforts from Duqm Port Company to market the port and attract major companies to use the facilities available therein, especially in storage and logistics areas. This is why we eagerly look forward to the next phase, which will make it one of the vital ports not only in the region but globally, which is not impossible because the Port includes various equipment that prepare it for this stage.

Before the end of last year, work began in the third package of Duqm Airport, which includes passengers terminal, air traffic control tower, control building, air freight building and other buildings. The capacity of the airport in the first phase will be 500 thousand passengers a year and 25 thousand tons of shipping materials per year.

We can consider Duqm Refinery as the locomotive of heavy and petrochemical industries and will be a key driver for the various economic sectors in SEZD and a major tributary of national economy.

With the growing importance of SEZD, the development project of city center emerges. It already began with the duplication of the main road in the middle of the city. It includes many services, and is part of a larger project that aims to improve the urban environment of the Wilayat and establishment of a modern urban environment in harmony with the new urban development and keeps pace with the projects taking place in SEZD.

At the same time, CSR programs Duqm witnessed over the past four years since the establishment SEZAD late 2011 prepare the local community for this great change in the city that is writing a new history for a multi-cultural and multi-investment city.