



Investments exceeding 216 million O.R.

Signing on two usufruct agreements for the projects of Sebacic Oman and Duqm Beach Resort



Chairman of SEZAD and Chairman of Sebacic Oman demonstrate the project's pictures to the audience



Signing the agreement with Sebacic Oman

Muscat – May 10 and 13, 2015

H.E. Yehya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri Chairman of Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD) signed during the month of May two usufruct agreements the first of which is an

industrial one and the other is a tourism project, with a combined investment value of 216 million O.R.

The first agreement was signed with Sebacic Oman, which intends to set up a factory of its own in Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZD) for the production

of Sebacic acid which is extracted from castor oil, and used in many chemical, plastics and medicines industries. The investment cost of the project is about 24 million O.R. and will be set up on a 400, 000 square meters, and it will be the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The second agreement was signed with Al Duqm Beach Resort Company, which plans to set up the Duqm Beach resort project with an investment cost of more than 500 million US Dollars (192 million O.R. approx.)

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The Federation of Arab News Agencies Highlights the Economic Importance of SEZD

Duqm – May 27, 2015

The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) has dedicated its monthly economic report for the Sultanate about the Duqm Special Economic Zone, appraising Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority's (SEZAD) efforts to provide an investment-friendly environment and to attract investors.

The report, which was published on different Arab news agencies, emphasized that SEZD was established as part of the Sultanate's efforts to diversify the national economy and increase non-oil sectors in the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and to provide more employment opportunities to the citizens of the Sultanate and the development of Al Wusta Governorate.

The report included an interview with Ismail Al Balushi, SEZAD's Deputy CEO, where he explained the elements of the comprehensive plan for SEZD and the projects that are being set up at Duqm. He pointed out that the Government has spent approx. 1.7 billion O.R. on infrastructure



projects, although he stressed that there are many infrastructure projects that are in the pipeline such as liquid and bulk materials jetties to meet the demands of the refinery in addition to the roads that lead to the port of Duqm. He also explained that access to SEZD has become available through the air via the airport and through the sea through the port in addition to the roads, adding that he considers creating logistics integration is one of the important and investment attraction tools at SEZD.

The report highlighted the one-stop shop and the incentives that SEZAD is providing for investors and the tourism projects that have been set up and the available investment opportunities.

Duqm Refinery awards Galfar major project

Muscat - May 3, 2015

Duqm Refinery announced that Galfar Engineering and Contracting has been awarded the tender for site preparation work for its upcoming refinery at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm.

Site preparation work is expected to start in the second quarter of 2015 and complete during the second quarter of 2016. The site preparation work comprises the excavation and compaction of more than 12 million m3 of soil, and will lay the groundwork to commence refinery construction in 2016. Once the refinery is completed, it will have the capacity to process around 230,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Diesel, jet fuel, naphtha and LPG are to be its primary products. Jacobus Nieuwenhuijze, Project Director of Duqm Refinery said, "The site preparation work will be the first activity on the refinery site and this is an exciting milestone for the project. This ensures that the site will be ready for major construction of the refinery."

"We are delighted that many Omani contractors had expressed interest in tendering for the contract and this award will directly benefit the local community of Duqm and Al Wusta region," he further added. Duqm Refinery will be one of the growth engines for the special economic zone. It will provide development opportunities for new projects that will directly and indirectly interface with the refinery. These projects will look to benefit from the refinery's products as well as provide different logistic services to the refinery.

It reflects SEZAD efforts to diversify investments and attract more investors

Local & foreign investments to establish a new factory for sebacic acid production plant



Hilal Al Ma'awali: Focusing on Eco Friendly Projects

Sheikh Hilal bin Khalid Al Ma'awali, the local partner in Oman Sebacic Company said that the aim of entering into such eco-friendly strategic projects has always been in our priority in this investment.

He also said in his speech during the signing ceremony, that the project would allow citizens to benefit by planting trees that produce the necessary feedstock in the Sultanate. He explained that the tree is known in the Sultanate for thousands of years as the "castor oil plant" and that its oil has many usages and that it is easy to plant in different areas. Al Ma'awali also confirmed the company's commitment to purchasing the farmer's product, pointing out that the company has begun carrying out a study that aims to encourage local Omani farmers to grow this tree in a scientific way, especially in untapped agricultural areas.

Muscat - May 10, 2015

A first-of-its kind sebacic acid production plant is planned to be built in the Duqm Special Economic Zone with an investment of \$62.7 million, according to the officials involved in the project.

An usufruct agreement for the establishment of the facility was signed on Sunday by Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), and representatives of Sebacic Oman Company.

The plant will be spread over 400,000 square metres of land. Sebacic acid is extracted from castor oil and is used in a wider range of chemical industries including plastics and pharmaceuticals.

The ceremony witnessed the signing of partnership agreement between Sheikh Hilal bin Khalid Al Mawali as local investor and the foreign partner Pradeep Nair as well as the signing of the financing agreement between Sebacic Oman and Meethaq Islamic Banking.

Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, deputy chief executive officer of SEZAD, said that partnerships represent another step towards realising the vision



of SEZAD to become an important economic engine in meeting the Sultanate's goals to diversify the sources of national income.

He explained that the plant would be the first of its kind in the Middle East and will create 450 employment opportunities in its first phase. The second phase, which is expected to begin during the next five years, shall witness an investment of around \$250 million and will provide 250 jobs, bringing the total of employment opportunities to around 700 jobs.

Suleiman Al Harthy: Pleased to Fund New Project at Duqm

Sulaiman Al Harthy, Group General Manager – Islamic Banking, said: "Against the backdrop of Oman's strategic economic diversification program and the emergence of Islamic financial services industry, Meethaq is proud to join hands with the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) to facilitate attractive investment opportunities for local and foreign investors. Meethaq recognizes the immense investment prospects and potential that Duqm offers and is committed to supporting the strategic national initiative to develop AlWusta Governorate and identify opportunities aimed at attracting investments in line with Oman's Vision 2020 economic blueprint."

Assignment a master plan & design contract of the city of the Duqm Frontier Town

Muscat – May 6, 2015

Aecom has been awarded a contract from Duqm Development Company (DDC) to develop the feasibility study, master plan and detailed design for Phase II of the Duqm Frontier Town, Oman.

The first stage of the contract includes a feasibility study and multiple concept master plans, reports the Times of Oman.

Aecom will be responsible for the detailed master plan, detailed design, preparation of the tenders, and supervision of construction contracts.

"To deliver this modern residential community, we have partnered with a consultant that ranks among the top design consultants in the world," said Sheikh Ibrahim Sultan Alhosni, chief executive officer of DDC.

"Aecom will work in conjunction with DDC to develop a dynamic and economically viable master plan that will bring our vision for the Duqm Frontier Town to life," he added.

"Aecom is delighted and honoured to have been awarded the project to provide consultancy services for Phase II of the Duqm Frontier Town," said Riad Nashif, executive vice president, Middle East and managing director, UAE and Oman.

Providing new options for investors and tourists The Signing of a Usufruct Agreement for the Construction of Duqm Beach Resort

Stoyan Kicee: we select Duqm to extend our business that came by comprehensive and accurate feasibility study



Muscat – May 13, 2015

The Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD) has granted Duqm Beach Resort a plot of land in the Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZAD) for the development of a mixed use project, consisting of a 5 star and 4 star beach resort, an entertainment and recreation centre, residential dwellings, international school, and commercial space for a shopping centre and offices, which will be constructed on the 45 hectare site, with a total investment in excess of 500 million US dollars.

The agreement was signed on behalf of SEZAD by H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of the Directors, and by Mr. Stoyan Kiceec, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Duqm Beach Touristic Resort LLC on behalf of the Duqm Beach Resort .

H.E. stressed that this agreement reflects the importance of Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZAD) on the local and international levels.

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri said in a press statement, that the signing of this agreement raises the number of mixed use projects in SEZAD and the size of the total investment in the zone, pointing out that this mixed use project increases competitiveness in SEZAD and provides several options for accommodation, recreation and entertainment for investors, the navies and tourists.

H.E. noted that Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority is keen to diversity the platform of investments and investors, and said, "We are proud of the existence of a variety of investments in SEZAD from around the world." H.E. also expressed his hope that this new project be a successful addition to the city centre and tourist area, and that it will contribute to providing good employment opportunities for Omani nationals.

Duqm Beach Resort is an investment alliance between the Australian company Xsite Group, and Al Jazeera International.

Duqm Beach Resort project includes a 5-star and a 4-star hotel, restaurants and entertainment precincts, residential dwellings, an international school and commercial space housing offices and retail stores. The first phase will be devoted to the establishment of the infrastructure for the development,



tourism, and other commercial activities, along with residential units that will be constructed to meet the existing demand for affordable residential units in Duqm. The tourism project will initially start in the entertainment and recreation sector in order to target naval ships and businesses operating in SEZAD, and it is expected that the execution of the first phase of the project will commence in the last quarter of this year. It is also expected that the project will be completed within 5 years and that it shall provide 1000 jobs by 2020.

For his part, Mr. Stoyan Kiceec, Duqm Beach Touristic Resort LLC Chairman, commented on the signing; "After a careful and thorough feasibility study and pre-development phase, today's announcement demonstrates our solid commitment to develop a world-class integrated development in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm. The Xsite Group will bring its proven competencies in developing fully-established, green field master-planned communities that support the all-round economic growth of the area, in line with Sultanate of Oman Government's objective to establish Duqm as a business and tourism hub".

Despite the agreement only having been officially formalised today, the Duqm Beach Resort has already generated serious interest from potential tenants at both national and regional levels in the residential and commercial areas, making it the perfect start for such an ambitious project.

The Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZD) provides several incentives to investors including big spaces allocated for investment, a 30-year exemption tax renewable for similar periods, 50-year usufruct agreements extendable for similar periods, in addition to many other incentives and facilities.





Chairman of SEZAD receives a delegation from the Chinese province of Ningxia

Muscat – May 27, 2015

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri Chairman of Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD) received in his office in the Knowledge Oasis Muscat a delegation from the autonomous Ningxia province in China, which included governmental officials and investors from a number of economic sectors.

H.E. presented a brief about the capabilities of Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZD) and the benefits that SEZAD provides for investors and projects that are being set up in SEZD.

H.E. pointed out that SEZD is characterized by having diversified areas for investment in the fields of heavy industries, petrochemicals, logistic services and commercial, residential and tourism activities.

During the meeting, the delegation expressed its interest in enhancing the cooperation between the province of Ningxia and SEZAD in the fields of logistic and industrial services.

The delegation expressed an official invitation to the Chairman of SEZAD to take part in China-Arab states expo 2015, which will be held in the city of Yinchuan, which is the Capital of the province of Ningxia, on 10-13 of next September, SEZAD, received an invitation to participate with its own corner in the Expo.

In the same context, SEZAD arranged a visit for the delegation to Duqm to have first-hand experience about the projects that are being set up in SEZD. The Delegation also visited the port of Duqm, the Drydock, the tourism area, the logistic services area and the rocks garden.

SEZAD presents investment opportunities to Qatari businessmen

Doha – May 30, 2015

Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD) delivered a presentation to a number of Qatari businessmen and investors, in Doha Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Saleh bin Hamoud Al Hasni, Manager of the One-stop Shop at SEZAD, said that the aim of this visit was to enhance the participation of Qatari investors in the projects that are being set up at Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZD).

A number of officials in SEZAD and companies operating at SEZD took part in the visit.



Participates in Omani products exhibition in Jeddah (Opex 2015)

Jeddah – May 18, 2015

SEZAD (Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority) participated in the Omani products exhibition "Opex 2015" which was held in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and lasted for 4 days.

Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabeia, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, stressed the importance of mutual trade between the GCC countries and to accomplish a true partnership between the private sector in the member states to overcome the challenges facing the local products and to have the ability to compete in the international markets.

During his inauguration of the exhibition, he pointed out the results of partnership in the growth of commercial relations and the enhancement of the local products; he praised the Omani products and services, which has a good reputation for being of high quality, after it has made its mark in Saudi and Gulf Markets.

The exhibition was inaugurated in the presence of H.E. Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Caption: the Saudi Minister of Commerce during his successful visit to SEZAD's corner.



Polish delegation visit SEZD

Duqm - May 7, 2015

A Polish business delegation yesterday visited the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) to explore and view the investment opportunities and projects.

The Polish delegation was led by Katarzyna Kacperczyk, Under-Secretary of State for Africa, Asia and Middle East Policy, Public and Economic Diplomacy of Poland and head of the delegation, said: "What we see here is a very huge investment and we congratulate the Sultanate of Oman for these potential investments. We are here with a huge delegation that has experience in the shipbuilding, yard-building and infrastructure building." The visit to SEZD included the Dry Dock, Duqm Port, Rock Garden, Duqm Front and the tourist area.

Witold Smidowski, Poland Ambassador to Riyadh, said: "During the site visit, we explore different possibilities and we are very happy to develop relations in different areas and to explore different fields particularly in food security, railway, and constructions."

"As ambassador, I see lots of potential of the relation, especially the growing number of Omani students in Poland and Polish tourists to Oman."

The trade between Oman and Poland stands at \$80 million, mostly in machinery equipments and food.

He added that during the visit, the delegation was impressed on how this zone is well organised and the facilities which it offers to investors. "We are encouraging Poland companies to invest in Oman and I expect lots



of companies to invest in Oman soon."

The visit, organised by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), in cooperation with the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa), came as part of the activities of the Omani-Polish Businessmen Forum.

Ismail bin Ahmed al Balushi (pictured), SEZAD Deputy CEO, stressed the importance of the visit to highlight investment opportunities available in Al Duqm to the Poland companies.

"The delegation was briefed at the Omani-Polish Business Forum which was held on Wednesday and this visit of Polish delegation looked closely at the potential of the region and we believe after this visit, the delegation will have clear image of Al Duqm potential, Al Balushi said, adding that such visits are an opportunity to investment and urged investors to direct their investment to the Sultanate. Faris bin Nasser al Farsi, Director-General, Investment Promotion, said that we have a delegation of more than 40 Polish companies from different sectors including dry-dock, management, oil and gas, logistic, food processing and shipping activities.