



Promotional campaigns place Duqm on global investment map

Celebrating the
commercial
operation of the
terminal building at
Duqm Airport

Oman Container Lines Strengthen
Shipping Lines in Oman's Ports



رؤيتنا

تطوير الدقم كوجهة مثالية للاستثمار والمعيشة

مهمتنا

١- تعزيز قدرات الموارد البشرية للشركة.
٢- تطوير البنية الأساسية بكفاءة عالية.
٣- الاستثمار لتعزيز الفائدة.

ركائزنا

التخطيط الاستراتيجي.
الموارد البشرية.
أنظمة تقنية المعلومات

قيمنا

السلامة. العمل الجماعي.
الأمانة. الاحترافية



VISION

Develop Duqm as a Destination for Diverse Investments and Living in the Region

MISSION

Enhance People Capabilities, Help Build Infrastructure Efficiently, Attract and Invest to Maximize Shareholders' Value

ENABLERS

Strategic Planning, Manpower, Information Technology

VALUES

Safety, Teamwork, Integrity, Professionalism





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Crossing Oceans to Secure the Future

Towards diversified investments

SEZD has a number of advantages that make it on top of local and international attention. In its promotional campaigns in Japan, Korea, China and the United States of America, SEZAD has been keen to emphasize these advantages and the importance of SEZD strategic location on the Arabian Sea open to the Indian Ocean and near the international maritime routes. This location is important for many investors, whether in the Sultanate or abroad. These campaigns also focused on SEZD other aspects, such as the incentives granted to the investors, the exemptions they receive, diversity of investment zones for local and international companies, and the ability to meet the aspirations of companies to obtain suitable land for their projects.

Each promotional campaign focused on a specific sector. In Japan, for example, SEZAD offered to build a Japanese industrial city in Duqm. In Korea, SEZAD discussed cooperation in smart cities. In China, SEZAD sought to attract new industrial companies to work in the Sino-Omani Industrial Park or in any other location in SEZD. In the United States, SEZAD focused on oil and gas companies. This is in addition to many other topics discussed to achieve SEZAD vision to make Duqm a diversified city in its investments and able to keep pace with the desires of its employees in stability and work.

In fact, the diversity of investments and investors is key to the establishment of the modern city of Duqm based on the coexistence of all members of society and meet their needs and requirements through a wide range of services provided in the coming period by the local and global private sector.

Coupled with the interest in promoting Duqm is the quick pace for completing the infrastructure in SEZD. In September, the commercial operation of the terminal building at Duqm Airport was an important development that brings Duqm closer to Muscat and facilitates the movement between them. We look forward to seeing full operation of the airport both locally and internationally in the coming few years.

At the same time, Duqm Port has become a beehive with the construction of the remaining packages, such as the preparation of the commercial berth for handling of containers and the construction of the oil berth that prepares the port for the export of refined petroleum products. SEZD is also witnessing the construction of the fishery harbor and the implementation of several main and secondary roads that join the various parts of SEZD. Duqm Refinery, whose construction tenders of 230,000 barrels per day were awarded in recent months, is a major project that qualifies Duqm as one of the major petrochemical industries zones in the Gulf and Indian Ocean region.



Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



the diversity of investments and investors is key to the establishment of the modern city of Duqm based on the coexistence of all members of society and meet their needs

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Maqbool Al-Wahaibi:
Ready to contribute
ODP's support to the
transformation of
Duqm into a smart
city

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OMR 90 million for the total cost of the airport

Celebrating the commercial operation of the terminal building at Duqm Airport



Mu'adhad Al-Yaqoubi:
The airport and other strategic projects in the governorate have a direct positive impact on society

Duqm - Saleh Nabhan Al-Mamari

On 17 September, 2018, the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD) celebrated the operation of the passenger terminal at Duqm Airport after completion of all the construction plans of the airport to be the third operational airport in Oman after Muscat and Salalah International Airports.

HE Dr. Mohammed bin Nasser Al-Zaa'bi, CEO of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA), stressed the economic and tourist importance of Duqm Airport, which operated in

2014 as a temporary terminal. In a statement to the press during reception of the first flight to use the new terminal, he stated, «The new terminal shall be an addition to the Sultanate in general and SEZD in particular through supporting the economic, tourism and social movement. The airport supports various projects, whether industrial, tourist or commercial, expressing his hope that the airport will activate the economic movement and link with Duqm Port and the Dry Dock leading to the support of the logistics side, increase air and sea freight traffic and freight transport.





He pointed out that most of the air transport agreements signed between the Sultanate and the world countries, such as the bilateral agreements or open skies, included all the airports of the Sultanate, and since Duqm airport operated in 2014, it is part of these agreements.

Al-Zaa'bi indicated that Oman Air is studying methods to link the airports of Muscat, Duqm and Salalah in the near future.

Total cost

The total cost of Duqm Airport was about OMR 90 million, of which OMR 38 million of the last package, which included the passenger building, the control tower, the air cargo terminal, and the meteorology and air traffic center. Duqm Airport operated in 2014 through 4 weekly flights using Embraer Aircraft, and as the traffic increased, the type of aircraft changed to Boeing 737 and the number of flights increased to 6 flights per week. It is expected that the number of passengers through

Duqm Airport this year would be 45,000 passengers compared to 34,000 in 2017 and 24,000 in 2016.

Quantum leap

«The operation of the new passenger terminal at Duqm Airport is a qualitative leap among the projects that have benefited the governorate, particularly with the existence of SEZD, which embraces mega projects,» said Sheikh Mu'adhad bin Mohammed Al-Yaqoubi, Governor of Al-Wusta. He expressed hope that these projects would create more jobs for youth, develop their capabilities and possibilities, and enrich the economic movement in the governorate, stressing that these projects, especially strategic projects, such as airports and ports that have a direct positive impact on the community and small and medium enterprises.

Attracting international airlines

For his part, Sheikh Ayman bin Ahmed

Dr. Mohammed Al-Zaa'bi:
Duqm Airport is part of the air transport agreements signed between the Sultanate and world countries

Ayman Al-Hosni:
We are working to attract international airlines to operate their flights through the Sultanate's airports, including Duqm Airport

Dr. Khalfan Al-Shuaili:
Operational readiness tests of Duqm Airport have proved it highly efficient to accommodate the movement of aircraft, passengers, and cargo





Yahya Al-Zidjali: Airport accommodates 500,000 passengers annually with the possibility of expanding to 2 million passengers annually

Number of passengers is expected to rise to 45,000 during the current year

Al-Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports Company, said that the company is currently working on attracting international airlines to operate their flights through the Sultanate's airports, including Duqm Airport, through participating in international conferences and exhibitions on aviation and tourism.

Airport sector development

Dr. Khalfan bin Said Al-Shuaili, CEO of Oman Aviation Services Company, stressed the economic and social importance of Duqm Airport. He praised the government's efforts to promote and develop the aviation and aerospace sector in the Sultanate through investment in various airports that have the capacity and potential to meet the needs of investors, tourists and citizens.

Al-Shuaili said that the operational readiness tests carried out at Duqm Airport during the last period proved the high efficiency of the airport capacity to accommodate the movement of aircraft, passengers and freight with modern and advanced systems, such as bridges, aircraft pushing and baggage handling devices, besides other services inside the airport. He stressed the importance of regional and international marketing in light of its strategic location with its ability to receive

various types of aircraft.

Radical transformation of the region

Eng. Yahya bin Khamis Al-Zidjali, Secretary of the Tender Committee at SEZAD, and the Planning and Projects Officer in the Office of the Chair, said that Duqm Airport will add a beautiful icon to anyone who wants to reach this region and will encourage businesspersons, investors and contractors to come easily.

He added that the region is witnessing a radical transformation with an integrated airport that will provide many services to investors, local community, tourists and visitors, adding that the airport plays a prominent role in supporting the projects of SEZD and Al-Wusta Governorate in general.

Al-Zidjali added that Duqm Airport was implemented in accordance with the latest international standards in airports. It is also been equipped with modern systems of communications, information technology, security surveillance systems and navigation and meteorological services, enabling it to deal with various incoming flights both from inside and outside the Sultanate. The airport's capacity is estimated at half a million passengers a year, with the potential to expand to 2 million passengers a year.



Oman and Korea sign MoU on cooperation in construction of smart cities



During the MoU signing

Muscat -

On 25 July 2018, the Sultanate and the Republic of Korea signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the construction smart cities. H.E. Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, Minister of Commerce and Industry, signed the MoU on behalf of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) and H.E. Son Byung-seok, the first Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, signed it on part of the Korean government.

The signing of the MoU was on the sidelines of the one-day Oman-Korea Business Forum in Muscat that discussed the creation of partnerships between Omani and Korean companies and the strengthening of economic relations between both countries.

The MoU, described by Dr. Al-Sunaidi as a new step in cooperation, partnership, and the establishment of a successful relationship between the Sultanate and Korea, provides for a study on the factors, projects and investment areas in the smart cities sector in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

He said the transformation of SEZD into a smart city would confer on the Sultanate new experiences and open the door to local and international companies, including Korean companies, to implement similar initiatives.

Fulfilling Duqm requirements as a smart city

The signing of the MoU with the Korean side was due to the potentials of Korean companies in this field. The MoU seeks to develop a framework that meets SEZD requirements for in the field of smart cities.

Smart cities are those that rely on ICT systems. According to the MoU, a number of studies and perceptions of smart cities will be prepared to adopt what is appropriate for SEZD.

Oman - Korea Business Forum

The Omani-Korean Business Forum, organized by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and its Korean counterpart, sought to acquaint business owners with the investment opportunities available in the two countries and discuss strategic partnerships to increase investment and trade.

The forum included many presentations on the main pillars of the current five-year plan and the potential offered by economic zones, free zones, ports and airports and complementary services. It also highlighted the investment opportunities in the promising economic sectors in the Sultanate, especially in tourism, manufacturing, fisheries, mining, logistics, auto parts, electronics and accessories and other fields.



From the forum

A study on projects and investment areas in the smart cities sector in Duqm

Dr. Al-Sunaidi: 'Smarting' Duqm confers on Oman new experience and opens the way for similar initiatives

A framework that meets SEZD requirements in the field of smart cities

Ready to contribute ODP's support to the transformation of Duqm into a smart city



Interview by: Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi

Mr. Maqbool Al-Wahaibi, CEO of ODP, said that there are many gains for companies operating in The Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) due to the adoption of smart city applications and programs.

Commenting on the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU), by SEZAD with the Korean side, for cooperation in the field of smart cities, Al-Wahaibi indicated that the adoption of intelligent systems contributes to reducing the operating cost of companies, speeding up their services and upgrading their performances. In addition, the use of innovative technological solutions in roads, port and mega projects operation, water and power networks and other services contributes to SEZD's development and improves the services it provides to locals, residents and investors.

In an exclusive interview with Duqm Economist, he asserted that Oman Data Park is ready to contribute to the success of this initiative. He added that the cloud data center in Duqm is one of the enablers for such projects. "The systems operating smart cities, such as servers and data storage, need a data center capable of achieving this goal. As the center is ready, it will be one of the enabling elements for the implementation of projects related to smart cities," elaborated Al-Wahaibi. "We look forward to being one of the contributors to the transformation of Duqm into a smart city and we are ready to contribute actively to these ambitions."

Use of innovative technological solutions in the operation of projects and facilities contributes to zone's development in improving its services

More than expectations

In his interview, Al-Wahaibi praised the level of demand for the cloud data center in SEZD though inaugurated only last February. "The performance of the center since its launch and so far exceeds our expectations. We currently have a good group of companies that benefit from its services and expect the coming period to witness an increase in their number and the joining of major companies, such as Duqm Port and Dry Dock to our clientele. SEZD was the first client of the company, which was a real boost to our efforts," stated CEO of ODP.

He added that ODP's vision is to make its center of cloud data in Duqm a center of

training and qualification of national cadres in the field of cloud systems and data management, and a specialized research center in this area.

Enhancing Duqm position at the economic and investment fronts

Al-Wahaibi touched upon the objectives of the company from establishing the cloud data center in Duqm. "We focus on realizing three main objectives, namely, strengthen Duqm position at the economic and investment fronts, attract foreign investment, and enable companies and investments to achieve their objectives smoothly. In this way, we would contribute to the Sultanate's



During the launching of the cloud data center in Duqm

strategy with regard to promoting investment. Duqm is at the forefront of the government's interest in economic diversification and the promotion of national income, and we are honored to be one of the contributors in this regard."

Enable companies to focus on their business

"The presence of the data center in Duqm enables companies to focus on their main sectors, such as ports, industry, oil and gas, logistics and other sectors while ODP takes care of the corporate ICT services, which saves about 45% of the total cost of operations.

"We are keen to provide our customers with a unique and scalable infrastructure supported by the necessary management expertise while ensuring the highest level of data protection at all times," indicated Al-Wahaibi.

Backup Data Center

He pointed out that the third objective is to create a backup data center that enhances the services provided by the company through its head office in Muscat. If the data of the company in Muscat faces any unforeseen events, they can obtain and retrieve them from Duqm data center. "We have concluded an agreement with Arab Financial Services Company to use the cloud data center in Duqm as a backup center for it in addition to the data center in Muscat, and there are other companies with which we will sign similar agreements in the coming period," stated CEO of ODP.

First provider of local cloud services

ODP was the first provider of local cloud services in the Sultanate. Al-Wahaibi said

that the company started its operations in 2012 through a third generation data center in Al- Watiyyah, Muscat, providing networking services to the banking sector. Then, it established a larger and more developed center in Knowledge Oasis Muscat to meet the growing demand from various industrial and economic sectors. "This center is the company's main data center, providing network connectivity, backup and disaster recovery services, as well as a wide range of other services." He explained that the three data centers in Duqm, Al- Watiyyah and Muscat are linked to each other to provide flexibility, interconnection of data and business continuity.

Main milestones

"In 2013, we launched our first cloud services from Oman placing the Sultanate on the international cloud service providers' map. In 2014, we set up the security operations center to meet the needs of key sectors, such as banks, oil and gas and government units that want to protect their information assets. We are proud today that we have built a strong security team. The company offers a wide range of security services, such as email security, website security, protection against denial of service attacks, vital infrastructure, phishing attacks, and others," explained Al-Wahaibi.

Local data centers

"Our main advantage is that we provide cloud services from within Oman, where we store data and information in the company's three data centers here in Oman. This is similar to what is happening in many Western countries, where cloud data centers provide service within their countries for greater

Use of innovative technological solutions in the operation of projects and facilities contributes to SEZAD's development in improving its services

Our confidence in SEZD encourages us to give priority to company expansion plans in Duqm

We have a strong security team and we offer a wide range of security services



Side of ODP control & monitoring room

security for corporate data. It is regrettable that still many companies buy cloud services from outside the Sultanate."

Miscellaneous services

Commenting on the services provided by ODP Al-Wahaibi said, "The Company currently offers more than 30 services published in the second edition of our public cloud portal. These services are advanced and diverse, including web hosting, cloud servers and security services domain names, all available in our market. Our partners in Oman and abroad can access and purchase these fully automated services from our online market without having to contact or interact with us in three to four steps.

"The number of companies that benefit from our services currently is about 450, and we have international customers from Australia, South America and other GCC countries. Currently, 80% of our customers are from the Sultanate, but within the next five years, we expect more of our customers to be from outside Oman.

Ambitions of company

"We are working to be among the top 10 cloud service providers in the world by 2025. I believe that our capabilities and skills allow

us to achieve this vision.

"We are not only interested in providing ICT services, but we also look forward to playing a vital role in digital transformation and supporting the Sultanate's efforts to build smart cities."

Optimism for success

Al-Wahaibi, CEO of ODP, expressed his optimism about SEZAD success in achieving its objectives: "Our confidence in Duqm encouraged us to give Duqm its priority in expanding our cloud data center. We have plans to establish data centers in a number of the Sultanate's Wilayats, but our confidence in the success of Duqm has made us accelerate the establishment of this center.

"Duqm projects are carefully studied and have good goals. Many projects will be implemented and will contribute to achieving SEZD's objectives. Despite the global challenges, we find that SEZAD projects continue and expect Duqm to become one of the most important sectors and pillars of the national economy due to its diverse projects, such as Duqm Port, Dry Dock, Duqm Refinery and advanced infrastructure," concluded Al-Wahaibi, CEO of ODP.

Electronic data is the lifeblood of enterprises that run their business online



A model of one of the smart cities in Japan

Our vision to be the top 10 cloud service provider in the world by 2050



Dr. Hafiz bin Ibrahim Al-Shehhi
Executive Director - Smart Cities Platform
Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems
Faculty of Economics and Political Science
Sultan Qaboos University

PLATFORM TO SUPPORT SMART CITIES' SOLUTIONS IN THE SULTANATE

Recently, there has been much talk about the concept of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and its techniques, which experts and specialists seek to deconstruct and explain their symbols to suit the needs of institutions and countries. There is no doubt that modern technology has advanced in all walks of life around us and the terms «Smart» and «Intelligence» rose to stardom to reflect the correct employment of technical advances in solving human problems. Today, there are smart governments, industrial intelligence, smart environment, smart health, smart education and other work and life styles supported by technical tools, infrastructure and skills often aimed at human well-being and optimal utilization of resources.

The term «smart cities» emerged in this context, but specialists still differ in providing a general definition thereof due to the different angles from which each approaches it. Do we have to focus only on cities and their causes, forgetting the importance and issues of villages and remote areas? What is a «city» in the first place? Do we measure cities by the number of people, the geographical area or the different issues about which they complain? What are the projects that fall under the concept of smart cities and what are not? All of this would open up different horizons and visions when we think about how to apply this term and its benefits to our local situations in the Sultanate.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) defines a sustainable smart city as «an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects.» In other words, the goal here is to sustain human well-being wherever it is by using modern technology in general and any other method that will reduce expenses and promote the proper employment of resources. Therefore, any project that is consistent with this objective may fall under the concept of smart cities.

In the Sultanate, the Smart Cities Platform was the first initiative in this area, followed by other initiatives by several governmental and private bodies. In 2017, the Scientific Research Council, the Supreme Council of Planning, Muscat Municipality, and the Information Technology Authority established a strategic program for smart cities in partnership with Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel), Omani Tourism Development Company (Omran) and Nama Holding Group. They launched the Smart Cities' Platform as the first project of the strategic program. The Platform aims to be a collaborative knowledge platform to stimulate smart cities initiatives in Oman to meet current and future challenges using smart technologies and innovative solutions. It aims at creating a network of communication, cooperation, and dialogue between all

sectors related to smart cities in the Sultanate, supporting research and innovation projects in smart cities, holding specialized workshops and conferences for capacity development in sectors related to smart cities, and raising awareness on the activities, projects and strategies of the smart cities in Oman.

The Platform's work focuses on smart city solutions and specifically on three key functions: awareness and capacity building, research and innovation, and stakeholders' engagement. In less than two years, the Platform has carried out many projects and events under these functions. In the awareness sector, for example, it launched «Platform Ambassadors» project, which aims to involve all different sectors of civil society in awareness raising and capacity building on smart city initiatives and solutions. More than 300 individuals from various governorates of the Sultanate participated in this initiative so far and engaged in some events in order to form knowledge societies in each governorate that seek to enrich knowledge and raise awareness of smart solutions for cities. The Platform also participated in many local and international events to raise awareness of the concept, solutions and initiatives of smart cities in the Sultanate.

The Platform also has contributions to the research and innovation sectors. Recently, it has announced short-term research grants of one year divided into two types of research: innovative applied research and theoretical research. It also held a hackathon event, a three-day creative competition where programmers, developers and innovators met to come up with innovative smart solutions to some of the city challenges to transform them into smart cities. This event, which was the first hackathon competition in the Sultanate in the name of (hackathon_you) in 2017, focused on the city of Mutrah in terms of its various economic, social, cultural and tourist issues and produced many smart ideas and solutions by 20 teams selected out of the 300 who registered for the competition.

The Platform also seeks to involve stakeholders in the development of smart city solutions and provide scientific advisory support whenever needed. In this context, the Platform, after coordinating with stakeholders, has presented a proposal of smart solutions to the management of the Wave Muscat in the renewable energy, water, and big data sectors. The proposal included many live examples of smart solutions by local and international companies presented in an easy and flexible manner to ensure its application with ease. The Platform also involved the stakeholders in the issues related to smart environment to reflect on smart solutions to some environmental issues in the Sultanate after coordination and consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs. In this regard, it applied the «Knowledge Cafe» methodology, also known as the «World Café» method to brainstorm the participants and come up with viable solutions.

A Japanese Economic Delegation Explores Investment Opportunities in Duqm



During the meeting in HQ in Duqm

Yahya Al-Jabri invites the Japanese delegation to invest in SEZD

Kentaro Sonoura: SEZD enjoys an attractive strategic location and we will evaluate each project individually

Presentations illustrate SEZD potentials and marketing and promotional efforts

Duqm -

H.E. Kentaro Sonoura, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan, praised the existing relations between the Sultanate and Japan, stressing the two countries' efforts to develop and strengthen them in various fields.

During his visit to the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) on 3 September 2018, Sonoura stressed the depth of the existing relations between the two countries, and noted the results of his visit to the Sultanate.

He indicated that the purpose of his visit to SEZD along with his accompanying delegation is to explore the investment opportunities available there. «We know that SEZD is strategically located. We are looking at investment opportunities and we will evaluate each project separately,» said the Japanese Prime Minister's Adviser.

The Japanese delegation includes H.E. Kentaro Sonoura, with 28 members from the public and private sectors in the fields of tourism, natural resources, energy, infrastructure and transportation, as well as representatives of a Japanese commercial bank.

Attracting Japanese investments

For his part, H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), called on the Japanese side to invest in Duqm, highlighting the interest that SEZD enjoys at the local and international levels.

Al-Jabri stressed that SEZD is witnessing the implementation of several economic projects within the Sultanate's plan for economic diversification.

During his reception of the Japanese delegation at SEZAD building, Al-Jabri explained the incentives offered by SEZAD to investors including tax exemptions and various facilities. He explained the unique geographical location of SEZD, pointing to government investments in establishing SEZD infrastructure and the most important projects currently under construction.

The visit of H.E. Kentaro Sonoura, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan, to SEZD came as part of his visit to the Sultanate aimed at strengthening political and economic relations between the two countries.

Presentations

The visit included presentations on SEZAD, Dry Dock, Duqm Port and the projects executed by the Oman Oil Company, such as Duqm Refinery, Oil Storage Station, and Gas Delivery Project to SEZD. The presentations addressed SEZD potentials and efforts to market and promote it locally and globally.

H.E. Kentaro Sonoura and his accompanying delegation visited the dry dock and listened to an explanation of its potentials in the field of ship repair and the company's plan to diversify its fields to various industrial sectors. The delegation also familiarized themselves on the potentials and main components of Duqm Port.



During the tour at Oman Dry Dock Company



Promotional campaigns place Duqm on global investment map

8 cities in Japan, South Korea, China and the United States host awareness seminars on SEZD



Capitals - Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi

In September and October, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) organized promotional campaigns in eight international cities to attract foreign investment and put Duqm on the global investment map.

Officials in Japan, South Korea, China and the United States welcomed the campaigns, stressing the desire of their countries to strengthen economic ties with the Sultanate.”

Tokyo and Osaka in Japan, the Korean capital Seoul, and Jinan, Hangzhou and Guangzhou, and Houston and Washington, USA, hosted seminars on the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) under the theme «Invest in Duqm». They highlighted SEZD that overlooks the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean close to the international corridors of global trade and Asian and African markets targeted by most industrialized countries.

The seminars shone light on the incentives offered by SEZAD and the efforts of the government in preparing SEZD to receive local and foreign investments and investments of government companies and the local and foreign private sector in the region.

Invest in SEZD: Incentives and Advantages

Exemption from customs duties on goods imported from outside the Sultanate to SEZD and goods exported from SEZD abroad.



Exemption from income tax for 30 years renewable from the date of commencement of activity.



Usufruct of State-owned lands in SEZD for up to 50 years renewable for similar periods.



Exemption from any restrictions on bringing in, circulation and conversion of foreign currencies, including the transfer of the project capital and its profits outside SEZD.



Allow projects to open commercial representation offices outside SEZD provided registration in accordance with the provisions of the laws in force.



Non-Omanis may own full project capital.



Exemption from the provisions of the Commercial Agencies Law.



Allow the importation of all types of goods allowed in the Sultanate without prior authorization or license, unless classified as explosive or chemical.



Exemption from the requirement of minimum capital invested.



Facilitate the provision of all necessary services for projects through the one-stop station (OSS), including registration services in the Commercial Register and issuance of all licenses, permits, approvals and visas.



In its first promotional campaign in the Sunshine Country

Duqm offers a variety of investment opportunities for Japanese investors



Seminar (Invest in Duqm) in Tokyo



Yahya Al-Jabri during his speech



Yogi Moto

Yahya Al-Jabri:
We invite Japanese investors to explore investment opportunities in Duqm

Tokyo - Osaka (Japan) - :

In front of more than 160 Japanese, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) has presented a various investment opportunity in the zone, which reach 2000 square kilometers and includes diverse investment areas in the industrial, commercial, tourism and real estate development sectors.

This came during a promotional campaign organized in Japan by the Economic Zone Authority in Duqm in cooperation with the Embassy of the Sultanate in Tokyo and included the cities of Tokyo and Osaka.

He added, "We support the economic co-operation between the two countries and we encourage Japanese companies to invest in the Sultanate.

He also stressed the importance of the

strategic location of Duqm, which is located away from the Straits of Hormuz and near the consumer markets in Asia, Africa and the GCC countries.

He also indicated the advantages of investment and the economic importance of the SEZD and its ability to keep up with the expectations of Japanese investors, pointing out that Duqm is located near Japan's major markets in Asia and Africa and Japanese companies can set up factories in the SEZD.

He called on Japanese businesspersons to invest in the Sultanate. He said that this seminar is a real opportunity to explore the advantages of investing in the economic zone in Duqm. He expressed his hope that the campaign will result in investment partnerships benefiting from the growing trade, economic and political relations between the two countries. Bringing together the

YOGI MOTO:
Japan will contribute Duqm projects through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation



Reggy explains the importance of the strategic location of the port of Duqm

Reggy Vermeulen:
We encourage Japanese companies to use the port of Duqm in their commercial operations

Hilal Al Kharousi:
Duqm Refinery is a major economic engine in the region



An investor raises questions during (invest in Duqm) seminar

Sultanate and Japan.

«The future is promising and investors, whether domestic or foreign, will benefit greatly from investment incentives.

Japanese investments

The State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan HE. Yoji Muto his pleasure to hold an investment seminar in Tokyo, stressing the close relations between the Sultanate and Japan.

He said during his speech at the seminar that Japan will contribute the Duqm projects through the Bank of Japan for International Cooperation,

He said that Japan hopes to deepen relations between the two countries, stressing that the Sultanate is a very important

country for Japan in all fields. He also called on the Omani side to take advantage of the Japanese technological progress in the plans of economic diversification.

In his speech, he noted the celebration of the Sultanate and Japan during this year of more than 40 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the Sultanate in January 2014 and the visit from his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the memorandum of understanding dialogue and political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries.

He expressed his wishes for the success of the promotional campaign and its objectives in attracting the Japanese private sector to invest in Duqm.

Many advantages and incentives

The SEZAD and the participants presented a number of visual presentations and focused on the investment environment in the Sultanate in general and the economic zone and the incentives provided by the investors and facilities provided. Saleh Bin Hamoud Al Hassani, Director General of Investor Services in SEZAD said "the zone enjoying by many advantages to being the largest private economic zone in the Middle East with a total area of 2000 sq km, indicating the tax and non-tax benefits and incentives offered by SEZAD to investors.

He explained that the (One Stop Shop) in SEZAD provides many services to investors, referring to the efforts of the Au-

p and collaboration with industry leaders



Hilal Al Kharousi during the visual presentation about OOC



thority in simplifying the procedures and provide many incentives.

Petrochemical Projects

In other side, Eng. Hilal Al Kharousi, CEO of OOC, said that the company owned by the government 100% is executes a number of heavy and petrochemical industries projects in Duqm;

He said that the Duqm refinery, which is implemented by Omani Kuwaiti partnership it will be an economic engine for the zone, referring to the stages of the refinery project.

Osaka Symposium

In Osaka, the SEZAD reviewed the advantages of investment and its incentives.

Mr. Reggy Vermeulen; the CEO of Port of Duqm Company SAOC said that the region has all the essential credentials and important ingredients for investment either for its strategic geographical features as it overlooks the Indian Ocean or for the facilities and incentives it offers to its potential investors.

In the symposium that was held in Osaka of Japan, Mr. Vermeulen added that SEZAD offers its investors many encouraging investment opportunities commending and referring in this regard to the components and features of this zone and its currently in progress projects.

He has indicated that the Port of Duqm has an ideal geographical location on the world's shipping lines the matter that makes it easy and convenient for these lines to utilize the port as a major hub linking between the east and the west.

In his visual presentation displayed during the symposium, Mr. Vermeulen has encour-



One of the attendees raises questions about investing in the food sector

Saleh Al-Hasani:
SEZAD is keen to streamline procedures, provide incentives and adopt encouraging investment policies

aged the Japanese companies to use the Port of Duqm in its business operations stressing at the same time the fact that the shipping lines that utilize the Port of Duqm will gain savings in terms time due to the unique location of the port in an open sea.


In a visual presentation by Amna Al Sharji from Urban Planning Department in (SEZAD), she has addressed and touched on the facilities and incentives granted by SEZAD to the investors and projects currently in progress in this zone and the investments and projects solicited thereby over the last years such as the Chinese Omani Industrial Park. Duqm Refinery Project set up by means of mutual investments from the Sultanate of Oman, State of Kuwait and State of Qatar as well as many other valuable projects.

We wish success the promotion campaign and to achieve objectives to attracting the Japanese private sector to invest in Duqm





Looks to Establish Japanese Industrial Zone in Duqm

Tokyo - :

H.E. Kentaro Sonoura, the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister received in his office in Tokyo dated (September 10, 2018) HE Yahya Said Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD)

During this meeting, they discussed the establishment of Japanese Industrial Zone in Duqm.

H.E Yahya Said Abdullah Al Jabri urged the Japanese side to invest in SEZD. He also indicated the advantages of investment and the economic importance of the SEZD and its ability to keep up with the expectations of Japanese investors, pointing out that Duqm is located near Japan's major markets in Asia and Africa and Japanese companies can set up factories in the SEZD.

He also stressed the importance of the strategic location of Duqm which is located away from the Straits of Hormuz and near the consumer markets in Asia, Africa and the GCC countries. He also pointed out a number of projects cur-


rently under way in the SEZD, such as the Ras Markaz Oil Storage Station, indicating the economic importance of this plant, and also addressed the other landmarks of SEZD, such as the Duqm Port, the Dry Dock, Duqm Airport and other projects.

For his part, Kentaro Sonoura, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, welcomed the proposal and promised to study it with Japanese specialists and companies, praising the good relations between the Sultanate and Japan. He also expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held in the Sultanate during his visit earlier this month, which included a visit to SEZD.

He added "We support the economic cooperation between the two countries and we encourage Japanese companies to invest in the Sultanate. We look forward to seeing in the future the increasing number of Japanese companies operating in the Sultanate."

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to form a working team from SEZAD and the Japanese side to discuss the proposal to establish a Japanese industrial zone in Duqm.

SEZAD Chairman briefs the Mayor of Tokyo on the advantages of the SEZD

Tokyo - :

On the other hand, Yuriko Koike, the mayor of Tokyo, received H.E Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairman of SEZAD.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the growing economic relations between the Sultanate and Japan as His Excellency submitted an explanation on SEZD and the na-

ture of its investment climate and the projects it is witnessing.

His Excellency indicated that SEZAD is working to make Duqm a city that meets the aspirations of investors in work, living and accommodation and meets all the requirements of modern life. He pointed out in this regard that the SEZD includes a number of integrated logistics services, such as Duqm Port, and Duqm Airport and roads linking the region, in addition to touristic region and the residential and commercial quarters.



SEZAD delegation acquaints with Japanese experience of smart cities



Tokyo - :

The delegation of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), headed by H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chair, visited the Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City to familiarize with the Japanese experience in the field of smart cities.

In July 2018, SEZAD signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport - Republic of South Korea for cooperation in the field of smart cities. In accordance with the MoU, the parties shall conduct a number of studies and perceptions of smart cities to adopt what is suitable for the Special Economic

Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

Kashiwa is one of the smart cities in Japan built according to the «new vision for future cities» by combining modern technologies and preservation of environment in its various facilities and components, which include a residential area, a hotel, two universities, a large mall, and multiple areas for sports. It also embraces a number of emerging small enterprises.

During the visit, the delegation familiarized with the stages of building Kashiwa, growth witnessed over the past years, and the plan to develop the city until 2030. The delegation also learned about the systems and technologies used in the city and the use of environment in the city's facilities and services.

SEZAD delegation visit international container terminal at Tokyo port

Tokyo - :

The delegation visited the international container terminal at Tokyo Port, one of the largest and most import-

ant Japanese ports, in order to know the port's potentials, growth in shipping and cargo traffic, and the port's technological solutions to cope with the steady growth in containers handled therein.



Promotional campaign in Korea calls for more economic partnerships



A memorial photo of the Korean side with the Sultanate delegation in Seoul

Al-Jabri:
Oman has
the potential
to become
a major
economic
hub in the
region



Yahya Al-Jabri during his speech



The Sultanate's ambassador to the Republic of Korea during his speech

**Sultanate's
Ambassador
to Seoul:**
Duqm offers
multiple
investment
opportunities
for Korean
companies

Seoul (South Korea) -

The promotional campaign on the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) in the Republic of Korea confirmed the depth of economic relations between the Sultanate and Korea. The campaign, organized by the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) in cooperation with the Sultanate's embassy in Seoul from 13 to 15 September 2018, called for more economic and investment partnerships between both countries.

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of SEZAD, stated that the political and economic relations between the Sultanate and

the Republic of Korea are witnessing further development and growth, adding that the promotional campaign in Korea underscores the utmost importance of boosting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

«We look forward to this promotion to be an opportunity to explore investment opportunities in SEZD given that the strategic location and political stability of the Sultanate qualify it to be an economic hub in the region,» he said in a speech at the 'Invest in Duqm' Symposium on 13 September 2018 in Seoul.

In his speech, H.E. Al-Jabri reviewed the economic importance of Duqm in terms of its strategic location and the advantages and incentives offered by SEZAD to investors call-



Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Korea during his speech



The Undersecretary of the Korean Ministry of Lands during his speech

Korean side stresses its desire to develop economic relations with the Sultanate

ing on businesspersons in Korea to acquaint themselves with the projects in SEZD and the investment opportunities available there.

The promotional campaign in Korea is the third stop of SEZAD in its Asian tour preceded by two Symposiums in the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Osaka.

Increasing investments

For his part, H.E. Mohammed bin Salim Al-Harthy, Sultanate's ambassador to the Republic of Korea, praised the efforts of SEZAD to maximize investments. He added that this Symposium is part of SEZAD strategy to increase investments in SEZD and to clarify the investment opportunities available to Korean companies.

At the Symposium, attended by about 100 businesspeople and journalists, H.E. Al-Harthy affirmed the depth of relations between the two friendly countries. He stressed that the Sultanate and Korea enjoy a friendly relationship dating back hundreds of years when Omani and Korean merchants met on the Silk

Road. He pointed out H.E. Lee Nak-yeon, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, discussed during his visit to the Sultanate in July several topics to expand the relations between the two countries to include multiple sectors. In this sense, the promotional campaign in Korea comes as a follow-up of the visit and topics discussed to promote relations between both countries.

Al-Harthy said that the promotional campaign in Korea aims at strengthening the economic relations between the Sultanate and Korea pointing out that SEZD is strategically located on the international trade route between East and West. In addition to its strategic location, SEZAD offers many incentives to investors. He highlighted the various investment opportunities that Korean companies can benefit from. «We invite you to take initiatives to invest in Duqm and assure you of our support and cooperation,» concluded the Sultanate's ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

In this regard, he noted the Sultanate's international standing, referring to the Sultan-

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Lands, Infrastructure and Transport: Duqm is an ideal environment for Korean investments

Presentations show economic importance of the projects implemented in SEZD



Haitham Al-Taiey, during the visual presentation about Oman Dry Dock Company

ate's neutral policy of tolerance and peace, the safe investment climate and the stable economy hailed by international organizations.

Korean side welcomes

The Korean side expressed its desire to develop the economic relations between the Sultanate and Korea. H.E. the Undersecretary of the Korean Ministry of Lands, Infrastructure and Transport, said that the memorandum of understanding signed with SEZAD for cooperation in the field of the establishment of smart cities opens up wider fields for the investment of Korean companies in Duqm. «Duqm is an ideal environment for Korean investments both in terms of the location of SEZD, in terms of the advantages and facilities offered by SEZAD and in terms of the expected return of Korean companies through its investment in Duqm,» stated the Korean Undersecretary.

On the same level, the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Korea praised the Korean investments in the Sultanate, especially in the petrochemical sector, and expressed his hope for further development in economic relations between the two countries.

Diversity of investment zones in the Sultanate

The Symposium included a number of presentations on SEZAD, the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development

(Ithraa), Port Duqm Company, Oman Dry Dock Company and Oman Oil Company.

Muhanna Al-Sinani, Investment Promotion Executive at Ithraa, gave a brief explanation of the investment advantages of the Sultanate and Ithraa efforts to attract investments.

He said that the Sultanate is characterized by a diversity of investment zones. In addition to SEZD, there are a number of other areas, such as Sohar Free Zone, Salalah Free Zone, Mazyouna Free Zone and the industrial zones run by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates, and Knowledge Oasis Muscat for investments in the IT sector. He stated that these zones offer many options to investors, stressing the role of Ithraa in encouraging businesspersons to invest in the Sultanate and facilities provided by them.

Hamad Al-Wihaibi, Director General of Business Development, Central Utilities Company, an affiliate of Oman Oil Company (OCC), gave a presentation on OCC and its projects both inside and outside the Sultanate, pointing to the economic importance of the projects implemented by the company in Duqm.

Mr. Haitham bin Nasser Al-Taiey, Director General of Oman Dry Dock Company, reviewed the dry dock's potential and highlighted the achievements during the past years, pointing to the growth of traffic in the basin, the increase in the number of vessels repaired there, and the services provided to ships.

Diversity of investment zones in the Sultanate offers many options for investors



Muhanna Al-Sinani, gave a brief explanation of the investment advantages of the Sultanate

Duqm is looking to diversify construction market and attract international Korean companies



During the meeting with the President of the International Contractors' Association

Seoul (South Korea) - :

The delegation of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) chaired by H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chair of SEZAD, visited the International Contractors' Associations (CICA) in Korea and the Smart Cities Museum in Seoul and the Free Economic Zone of Incheon (IFEZ). This was part of the promotional campaign organized by SEZAD in cooperation with the Sultanate's Embassy in Korea and with the participation of representatives from the Public Authority for Promotion of Investment and Export Development «Ithraa», Oman Oil Company, Oman Dry Dock Company and Duqm Port Company.

During a meeting with Lee Kun-Ki, Chair of the Korean CICA, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri discussed attracting Korean construction companies to work in SEZD. He pointed out that Duqm is in the process of developing and witnessing the implementation of many projects in the infrastructure sectors, pointing to the facilities obtained by the companies investing in Duqm and the advantages of SEZD.

During the meeting, H.E. Mohammed bin Salim Al-Harthy, the Sultanate's ambassador to the Republic of Korea, presented the incentives and facilities offered by SEZAD to the companies investing in SEZD, the exemptions it receives and the advantages of SEZD in terms of location, infrastructure and facilities.

For his part, Lee Kun-Ki, chair of Korea's

Al-Jabri calls for the International Contractors' Associations to invest in SEZD

Chair of the International Contractors' Association of Korea: Duqm is a promising project and we look forward to the participation of Korean companies in tenders



Consideration of investment in the hospital sector and the possibilities of Duqm to accommodate major projects

SEZAD delegation briefed on the potential of Korean companies operating in the Smart Cities sector

SEZAD delegation visits the Free Economic Zone in «Incheon» and learns about the size of its investment and its development plan

Discussion of cooperation with IFEZ in the areas of training and exchange of visits



During the meeting with the President of the Economic Zone in Incheon

CICA, welcomed the proposal. He said Duqm is a promising project and «we will look into the opportunities. We look forward to the participation of Korean companies in the tenders offered in Duqm in particular and the Sultanate in general,» added Lee Kun-Ki.

Investment in the hospital sector

During the meeting, they also discussed investment in the hospital sector, and stressed that the growth witnessed by Duqm requires the establishment of hospitals with a good international reputation pointing out that Duqm has a vast area prepared to keep pace with the needs of land projects.

Korea's CICA is the only national agency to promote overseas construction. Founded in 1976, Korea's CICA is a business facilitator for Korean contractors overseas and helps develop this area. It also seeks to provide information on projects, global construction market and advanced companies for construction abroad.

Through this visit, SEZAD seeks to diversify the construction market in Duqm and attract international companies with a leading reputation in this sector.

Smart Cities Museum

SEZAD delegation also visited the Smart Cities Museum in Seoul where it was briefed on the techniques followed by Korean companies working in the smart cities sector and the fields they focus on especially in the fields of water use, waste management, smart energy, transportation and smart houses. The visit was part of SEZAD move to transform

Duqm into a smart city.

Cooperation with the Economic Zone in Incheon

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri also visited the Free Economic Zone in Incheon (IFEZ), about an hour from the capital, Seoul. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on SEZD possibilities, which started in 2003 and the development plan that is taking place there at a cost of about USD 47 billion. It is famous for IT fine industry, research, and biotechnology and is a hub for financial transactions, robotics and aeronautical technology industries. It includes the new Incheon Port, an international airport, two universities and a number of schools with more than 240,000 people and it plans to increase their number to 540,000 by the end of the development period, which extends until 2022.

During his visit to IFEZ, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri held a meeting with Kim Yong-Jin, Chair of IFEZ, during which he discussed cooperation between the two regions in a number of areas, such as training, exchange of experiences and visits.

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Deputy CEO of SEZAD, briefed the audience on the advantages and incentives offered by SEZAD to investors and discussed its area, investments and projects focused on by SEZAD.

Kim Yong-Jin expressed appreciation for the visit and expressed his admiration for the Sultanate's plan to establish SEZD and its development projects. He said he was looking forward to visiting the Sultanate and SEZD.



Group photo at Smart Cities Museum

In its promotional campaign in China

Duqm focuses on attracting new industrial companies



Attendance at the Jinan Symposium

Jinan - Hangzhou - Guangzhou (China) -  :

The promotional campaign launched by the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) in the People's Republic of China started on 17 September 2018 from Jinan City, followed by Hangzhou, and ended on 24 September in Guangzhou.

The campaign is part of SEZAD pursuit to attract new Chinese companies to invest in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD), which is currently setting up a Sino-Omani Industrial Park on an area of 1172 hectares under the umbrella of Wanfang Oman Company.


H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEZAD, called on

the Chinese businesspeople and investors to invest in Duqm stressing the incentives provided by SEZAD to the investors.

Al-Jabri stressed the depth of the political, economic and historical relations between the Sultanate and China, noting that the historical legacy of these special relations is a catalyst for further economic partnerships.

Various investment zones

In his opening statement of the «Invest in Duqm» Symposium held in Jinan, China, Al-Jabri stated that SEZD is the largest special economic zone in the Middle East and North Africa and divided into a number of investment zones, including industry, tourism, logistics, real estate development, and others.


SEZAD Chairman: Historical relations between the two countries is a catalyst for further economic partnerships



Zhang Jing offers a presentation on the Sino-Omani Industrial Park


Sino-Omani Industrial Park urges industrial companies to invest in SEZD



Dr. Ismail Al-Balushi (first from left) answers the audience's questions

Dr. Ismail Al-Balushi:
Various strategic projects in the industrial zone

SEZAD and Wanfang officials:
Expediting the work of Sino-Omani Industrial Park is top priority

He pointed out that the defining characteristics of SEZD include a multi-purpose port, an airport, dry dock for ship repair, a fishing port and zone for fish industry.

H.E. Al-Jabri referred to the incentives provided by SEZAD stating that it provides a number of facilities and incentives, including allowing the foreign investor to own 100% of the projects, tax exemption for up to 30 years renewable for a similar period, customs facilities, residence visas, recruitment of manpower, and other facilities and incentives.

He also called on investors and representatives of the Chinese companies to explore investment opportunities in SEZD.

Presentation of the Sino-Omani Industrial Park

On his part, Zhang Jing, General Manager of Wanfang Oman Company, praised the investment environment in SEZD, and encouraged the Chinese industrial companies to invest there stating that the facilities received by the Sino-Omani Industrial Park are very good.

In a presentation during the symposium,

he reviewed the projects SEZD focuses on and the progress therein. He referred to the completion of design of some projects, the commencement of work in the mall project, and scheduled commencement in other projects during the coming period.

The plan for the Sino-Omani Industrial Park is to include some 35 projects at a cost of about USD 10.7 billion. The promotional campaign in China, organized by SEZAD, in cooperation with Wanfang Oman Company, aims to attract new investments and promote SEZD and the Sino-Omani Industrial Park.

In his interventions during the Symposium, Ali Shah, Chair of Wanfang Oman Company, said that the company would like to increase the number of companies that invest in the Sino-Omani Industrial Park.

Review of investment climate in SEZD

The symposiums, held in the three Chinese cities (Jinan, Hangzhou and Guangzhou), highlighted the infrastructure of SEZD, projects, and components, such as Duqm Port, Dry Dock, Airport, Refinery and Ras Markaz oil storage terminal. They also focused on the



A number of attendees at the Guangzhou Symposium



Chair of Wanfang Oman Company during his speech at Jinan Symposium



Said Al-Ma'walli offers a presentation on the dry dock

investment climate in SEZD and the incentives, and benefits facilities received by the companies that invest there.

SEZAD and Wanfang officials, in their responses to the questions of representatives of Chinese companies, stressed that SEZD has many elements conducive to investment, pointing to the efforts exerted by both sides to speed up the work of the Sino-Omani Industrial Park. They also stressed at the same time the Sultanate's security and political stability, pointing also to the values enjoyed by the Omani society that is open to other civilizations.

Interests of Chinese business

In their inquiries, the businesspersons and representatives of Chinese companies focused on the investment environment in Duqm and the incentives provided by SEZAD. They also wanted to know more about the advantages of SEZD, fields of investment in the minerals sector and its availability in Duqm or nearby. They also posed questions on the industrial zone, modality of investing there and the factories it has.

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Deputy

CEO of SEZAD, said in response to the questions of businesspersons and representatives of Chinese companies that the incentives provided by SEZAD encourage investment there and take into account the aspirations of companies. He pointed out that the industrial zone is one of the investment zones in SEZD that witness the execution of strategic projects and has been growing.

He indicated that there are a number of major projects in this zone, such as the Sebatic Refinery, Duqm Refinery and the bus production plant implemented in strategic partnership between the Sultanate and Qatar.

The symposiums held in the three cities included presentations on SEZD, the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa), the Sino-Omani Industrial Park in Duqm, Oman Dry Dock Company and Duqm Port Company that highlighted investment opportunities and possibilities in SEZD.

Erwin Mortelmans, Commercial Director of Duqm Port Company, reviewed the potential of the port, which is a multi-purpose port, pointing to the port's future role in the global trade movement.

General Manager of Chinese Wanfang Company hails the investment environment in Duqm

Questions of representatives of Chinese companies focus on industries, mining and the investment environment



Saleh Al-Hasni, Director General of Investors Services at SEZAD, offers a presentation on incentives and investments



Erwin Mortelmans offers a presentation on Duqm Port



During the meeting with Shuifa

The Group manages State assets of 67 billion yuan in Shandong Province

Discussions highlight Duqm benefits and its ability to attract large-scale projects

Yahya Al-Jabri invites Shuifa Zhongxing Group to invest in Duqm

Jinan - (China) -  :

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), called on Shuifa Zhongxing Group to invest in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

This was during his talks in Jinan, China with Xiaojun Liu, Deputy Secretary General of the Party Committee and General Manager of Shuifa Zhongxing Group, and Shang Zhiyong, Chair of the Group.

The general manager of Shuifa Zhongxing Group gave a presentation on the group and its investments. He indicated that the state-owned group operates in a number of key sectors in China and has foreign investments. He explained that the group manages government assets in Shandong Province, especially in the sectors of water, electricity, hospitals and tourism.

The group has about 400 companies, with assets of 67 billion yuan.

The meeting, which included officials from SEZAD, Wanfang Oman Company, and the Shuifa Zhongxing Group, was part of SEZAD promotional campaign in China aimed at attracting new Chinese investments.

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri asserted that Duqm is an ideal environment for Shuifa Zhongxing Group investment highlighting its strategic location on the Indian Ocean and close to the target markets of Chinese companies in Asia and Africa. Al-Jabri added that SEZD is currently growing and has the capacity to absorb large-scale projects.

During the meeting, Wanfang Oman Company made a presentation on the Sino-Omani Industrial Park in SEZD that highlighted the Park, its operation and the projects scheduled there.

For his part, Chair of Shuifa Zhongxing Group expressed his aspiration to cooperate with SEZAD and Wanfang Oman Company welcoming the joint work that achieves the goals of all.



Group photo of SEZAD delegation with Shuifa Zhongxing officials

Familiarization with the experience of Chinese companies and discuss areas of cooperation



SEZAD delegation listening to an explanation of the latest technologies adopted by Dahua

Hangzhou - Guangzhou (China) -

During the promotional campaign in the Chinese cities of Hangzhou and Guangzhou, the delegation of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) headed by H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri visited a number of Chinese industrial companies to learn and benefit from their experiences.


The visit included Dahua Company specialized in IT systems and smart cities. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the company's capabilities and technologies in the smart cities sector. The delegation also

visited Wensli, a textile and silk industry company.

In Guangzhou, the delegation visited Sinopec Petrochemicals Guangzhou that operates in oil refining and ethylene production, and GRG Banking, a leading provider of intelligent financial equipment and solutions, and the first supplier of ATMs in China. The company's officials indicated that its products and solutions are used in the financial, retail, telecommunications and information technology sectors in more than 80 countries and regions around the world. They indicated that the focus of the company is on smart manufacturing and technological innovation in various industries.



SEZAD delegation during his visit to Wensli


Familiarization with the experience of Dahua Company in the Smart Cities sector and Smart Financial Solutions for GRG


Visit to Sinopec Petrochemicals and Wensli for textile and silk industries

Houston promotion campaign calls on international companies to invest in the oil and gas sector in Duqm

Yahya Al-Jabri:
We look forward to establishing partnerships between the business communities in the Sultanate and Houston



Yahya Al-Jabri delivers his statement

Houston (United States) -

The promotional campaign for the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) in Houston, USA, from 10 to 13 October, called on international companies to invest in the oil and gas sector in Duqm.

In his speech at an investment symposium held in Houston, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), confirmed SEZAD efforts to diversify its investments and attract international companies operating in the oil and gas sector. He pointed out that there are common aspects between the Sultanate and Houston as the former is a producer and exporter of oil, while the latter is one of the major centers of global oil and gas industry.

Al-Jabri also expressed his aspiration to establish partnerships and joint ventures between the business communities in the Sultanate and Houston.

Highlighting SEZD advantages

The symposium was attended by rep-

resentatives of more than 70 companies, most of which invest in the oil and gas sector in the United States of America. The promotional campaign aims at informing the international companies operating in the oil and gas sector in America about the possibilities available in SEZD, which includes a variety of investment zones, such as the zone of heavy industries and petrochemicals, which has Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Complex implemented by the Duqm Refinery Company. SEZAD is working to promote SEZD in order to attract more international companies to invest therein.

Oman-UAS economic relations

In his speech, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri praised the economic relations between the Sultanate and the United States of America. He said that the United States established trade relations with Oman since the early years of the independence of the United States and signed the Treaty of Friendship and Trade in Muscat in 1833. In the era of

Duqm is one of the largest industrial and logistic hubs supporting the private sector investments in the Sultanate



A number of attendees at the Houston Symposium



Houraa Al-Wihaibi offers a presentation on Ithraa



Commercial Attaché at the US Embassy in Muscat delivers a speech during the Symposium

modern renaissance of the Sultanate, the two countries signed the Free Trade Agreement in January 2006.

Economic diversification

Al-Jabri also highlighted the efforts of the Sultanate in economic diversification. He indicated that the Sultanate has taken many steps to diversify its economy through successive five-year plans and has implemented infrastructure projects that consolidate its economy, such as roads, ports, airports, and power and water plants, praising the strategic location of the Sultanate.

He also reviewed the government's efforts in the fields of education, training, qualification of national workforce, and providing job opportunities to Omanis. He touched upon the initiatives of the government to encourage the private sector to participate in economic development through the establishment of logistics and industrial centers, such as SEZD, the free zones in Salalah, Sohar, and Al-Mazyouna, and industrial estates distributed in various governorates of the Sultanate.

Presentations

The symposium included a number of pre-

sentations on the investment environment in the Sultanate, especially in SEZD, infrastructure projects in Duqm, investment projects implemented by the private sector in SEZD, and the incentives offered by SEZAD for investors. Houraa Al-Wihaibi, Commercial Attaché in the Sultanate's embassy in the United States offered a presentation on the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (ITHRAA), the investment climate in Oman, and the free and industrial zones in the Sultanate. Saleh bin Homoud Al-Hasni, Director General of Investor Services in SEZAD, offered a presentation on the incentives provided by SEZAD and the most prominent projects. Hilal bin Ali Al-Kharousi, Executive General Manager, Oman Oil Company (OOC), offered a presentation on the OOC projects in SEZD, most notably Duqm Refinery and petrochemical industries complex. Reggie Vermeulen, CEO of Duqm Port Company, offered a presentation on the port, its potential and its geographical location. Haitham bin Nasser Al-Taiey, General Manager of Oman Dry Dock Company, offered a presentation on the possibilities of the dry dock as one of the most important dry basins in the region.

Oil companies look at the possibilities of Duqm in supporting the oil and gas industry in the region



Part of meetings with the business community in Houston

Many fields of investment of oil companies in the zone of heavy industries and petrochemicals

A vital role expected for the company in the Petrochemical Industries Complex in Duqm

SEZAD delegation visits OXEA and takes note of the progress of the operations

Hilal Al-Kharousi:
OXEA: successful investment of Oman Oil Company

1.3 million tons annually and estimated annual sales of 1.2 billion euros

Training a group of Omani engineers in different production sites



During the meeting at OXEA headquarters

Houston (United States) -

The Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm delegation visited the (OXEA) headquarters in Houston (United States), which is one of the world centers in the oil industry.

Hilal bin Ali Al-Kharousi, a Director of OXEA and Managing Director of OOC, indicated that OXEA will play a vital role through its investments in the petrochemical complex in Duqm, and through the strategic partnership between OOC and KPC. Explaining that OXEA will develop the AXO product plant, provide technology, support operations and marketing, and taking advantages of the company's expertise in this field.

OXEA is one of the successful companies in OOC's global investments and completes the OOC investment system in the downstream part of the energy sector, explaining that OXEA has a number of technologies to produce Oxo chemicals. Al-Kharousi said.

Largest supplier of Oxo products

OXEA is the largest supplier of Oxo products in the world with a production capacity of 1.3 million tons annually and estimated annual sales of 1.2 billion euros. It produces more than 70 chemicals from Oxo used in a wide range of specialized industries, such as pharmaceuticals, perfumes, paints, glues, lubricants, cosmetics, plastic and others.

OXEA has a high market share in the United States of America and Europe and provides

products to more than one thousand customers worldwide. It has factories in Germany, Netherlands and China in addition to the United States of America.

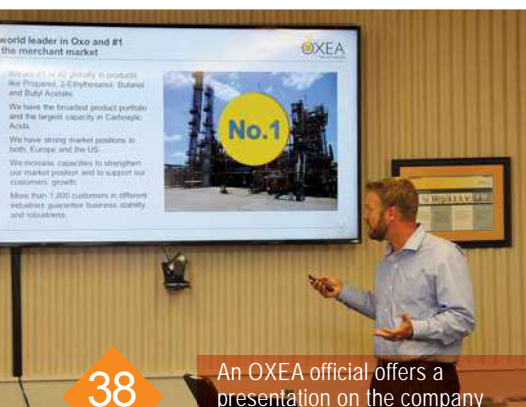
Hilal Al-Kharousi said that since the OOC acquisition of OXEA, it has been training a group of Omani engineers in different production sites. There are also a number of Omanis working at OXEA in various fields, such as human resources development, marketing, and executive management. The CEO is also an Omani national.

Important developments

During the meeting, which included officials from both sides, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri gave a brief overview of SEZD and its various projects. OXEA officials made a number of presentations on the company's developments during the past few years, most notably the transfer of 100% ownership to the OOC through an acquisition in 2013.

Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chair, expressed his admiration for the success achieved by OXEA. He pointed out that the OXEA training of many Omani engineers would contribute to honing their skills and enriching their expertise. He welcomed the expected investments of the company in the Petrochemical Industries Complex in Duqm.

The delegation visited OXEA several facilities, during which it was briefed on the progress of the work and listened to an explanation of the most productive operations that take place at its Houston site.



An OXEA official offers a presentation on the company



SEZAD delegation during its visit to one of OXEA production sites

Yahya Al-Jabri calls Occidental International Company to invest in Duqm



Houston (United States) - :

Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Board of Directors of SEZAD, invited Occidental International Company to invest in Duqm, stressing that SEZAD is ready for the company's investments in the oil sector.

This was during his visit to the company's facilities in Houston, a part of the promotional campaign for Duqm in

the United States.

SEZD consists of a number of investment zones, including the heavy industries and petrochemicals zone, which is close to the multi-purpose Duqm Port, which is currently witnessing the construction of the dock for liquid and bulk materials.

During the visit, Al-Jabri was briefed on the company's projects in Houston, and the company officials made presentations on its potentials and products.

SEZAD delegation visits Houston Port and watches the growth of the business



Houston (United States) - :

SEZAD delegation visited Houston Port and met with a number of its board members who offered presentations



on the port, which is one of the largest ports in the United States of America, and the efforts exerted to increase the volume of work there, facilitate commercial activities, increase investments and provide job opportunities and training.

Business community in Washington welcomes investment in Duqm

Yahya Al-Jabri: Duqm is an ideal choice for American companies



During the meeting in the US Department of Commerce

Washington (United States) -

The business community in Washington, DC, welcomed investing in SEZD. Seward L. Jones, Assistant Undersecretary of Commerce, said that the ministry encourages American companies to invest in Duqm and establish strong relations with the business community in the Sultanate.

This came during a meeting between H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chair, and officials from the US Department of Commerce in the presence of H.E. Hunaina bint Sultan Al-Mughairy, Sultanate's Ambassador to the United States of America.

SEZAD reviewed the investment opportunities available in SEZD to the business community in Washington through meetings with a number of American companies and senior US officials. The meetings held in the American Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Commerce, and the US-Ar-

ab Chamber of Commerce witnessed a good presence of representatives of about 50 American companies. During the meetings, SEZAD delegation reviewed the investment opportunities available in Duqm, SEZD potential, the infrastructure, the current projects and the incentives provided by SEZAD to investors.

Multiple advantages

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, SEZAD Chair, confirmed that he welcomed the US investments, stressing that SEZAD encourages American companies to invest in Duqm. He pointed out that SEZD geographical location on international shipping lines and facilities provided to investors renders it an ideal choice for American companies, stressing that Duqm includes various investment zones, including heavy industries, petrochemicals, medium and light industries, as well as tourism, trade, real estate

Seward Jones: We encourage US companies to invest in Duqm





David Short (center) addresses the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce

Steve Lotus: Organizing a visit to Duqm allows US companies to see SEZD and its projects

development and services Logistics and oil storage.

During the meeting, Al-Jabri praised the good relations between the Sultanate and the United States of America, and the efforts of the two countries to develop them in various fields, especially in the economic aspect, noting the free trade agreement between the Sultanate and the United States signed in 2006.

Establishing economic partnerships

For his part, Steve Lotus, Vice President for Middle East Affairs at the American Chamber of Commerce, expressed his desire to strengthen relations between the Sultanate and the United States of America and to establish economic partnerships between American and Omani companies, noting the economic advantages enjoyed by SEZD.

Lotus indicated that there is a good interest from the US companies to invest in Duqm and stressed that the American Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to organizing a visit to Duqm for American companies to get a closer look at SEZD and the projects implemented therein.

Exploiting available opportunities

The last day of the promotional campaign in the United States of America witnessed several meetings between SEZAD delegation and representatives of American companies that attended the meeting held at the US-Arab National Chamber of Commerce.

David Short, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Aviation and International Affairs, US Department of Transportation, noted the relationship between the United States of America and the Sultanate, calling on American companies to invest opportunities in SEZD.

He pointed out many factors that support the strategic partnership between the Sultanate and the United States of America, such as the free trade agreement between the two countries, the open skies agreement and the diversified Omani economy. He stressed that the infrastructure projects in Duqm are a long-term investment by the Omani people.

The meeting included presentations on SEZD, the incentives offered to investors and projects, possibilities of Duqm Port, dry dock, fishing port, fish industry complex, infrastructure, tourism projects, and projects implemented by Oman Oil Company.

David Short: Many factors support the strategic partnership between the Sultanate and the United States



Many companies attended the meeting held at the US-Arab National Chamber of Commerce

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PROMOTION IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Debate on emerging markets and the potential for a new global economic crisis here or there or in this sector or that never stops. Crisis theorists sound certain of its approach and provide multiple arguments, notably large debts of some countries and companies and possible default on repayment. They usually refer to this Arab state or that to address its position concerning the crisis if it occurs or its probable advent. However, I will not support or refute the arguments put forward, but I would like to point out that the reports of global growth, global trade, and even global investment - despite a relative decline therein - do not confirm that there is an imminent crisis, but indicate challenges and dangers. It is not mere wishful thinking to point out that some thinkers see that what is happening is a finger biting game between major powers rather than a comprehensive crisis looming in the horizon.

I know that others are escalating the pessimistic position to the point of anticipating a war that will not leave one behind and refer in this regard to the multitude of fleets here and there, but I believe that the brakes on the global crisis or war are far greater than its driving forces. The main reason for this belief is the profound overlapping of interests and financial, monetary, investment and commercial networks. Most importantly, even fools realize that the losses will be appalling.

How do States, institutions and companies behave when they think they have something they want to promote abroad at those times?

Perhaps the first thing to do is to clarify the country's approach in international politics, its respect for international law and international conventions, its efforts to maintain international peace and security, its relations with neighboring countries, and its position on the issues of the region. Honestly, Oman has a lot to boast of on this level. This would allow it to receive capitals, tourists, and work force required without hindrance even in times of tension in the region, in emerging markets, or even beyond. I believe that these promotional tours on Duqm, which took place in several countries in the east and west recently, have made it abundantly clear.

The second dimension is the readiness and seriousness of the opportunity offered by the Sultanate, and in this regard, we can write volumes on the strategic, investment, geographical and environmental advantages of Duqm with all that it includes and looks forward to, with a highly dynamic system for the conduct and facilitation of business.

It is also equally important to underscore the unique lifestyle in this country rendering it a destination for every seeker for a permanent living or a long or short visit to enjoy its atmosphere of wisdom and human and social

harmony, and feel the progress enjoyed by the people. The investor or visitor would see these matters at every turn or meeting, even if transient.

In my personal conscience, the Sultanate of Oman is similar to a flourishing green oasis that one resorts to whenever he worries or is upset by the scorching tension, or the shelter of the tired to rest after a struggle.

The modernization of a whole country like the Sultanate, progressively and with such impressive control over the - almost inevitable - negative effects of technological, urban, social and cultural modernization is something that does not happen very much in today's world. Of course, the presentation of the various indicators of macroeconomic conditions in the medium term is a requirement of any investment promotion and such things are known in all their dimensions in general on the websites of central banks and ministries of finance, foreign trade and investment, as well as the international organizations concerned. All stakeholders easily follow international competition indexes, business climate report, and reports of transparency, integrity, happiness and others. As is known, the Sultanate occupies good positions in all of them, but direct meetings, explanation of what is behind the indicators and leaving good publications and materials on electronic media make a difference even if the promotion is accompanied by artistic and cultural performances.

The promotion does not also take place in a vacuum given that the world has conflicting interests, which requires wise dealing. The economic crises in the markets of Argentina, Turkey, Indonesia, Brazil, Vietnam, South Africa etc., outbreak of open economic and geopolitical conflicts between America, Russia and China, the tension between Iran and the United States, the Brexit etc. do not mean that those countries stopped trading or investing. Nor every sector therein stopped even if other sectors are subject to stagnation or crises. In return, tensions do not include all States or regions. Therefore, there is a wide range of efforts to encourage investors to participate from the outset in a success story, present opportunities that can or should be promoted, and capture investment shares that can be acquired or attracted, notably from funds and wealth management houses in the region.

Finally, «the one who sees is not like the one who hears.» Since Duqm has what it says about projects on the ground that work, produce, and export; houses, hotels, pavements, docks, regular flights, alliances; investment, financing, industrial, technical partnerships, etc., the presentation of the success stories is much stronger than any words about the promising future of this region, God willing.

Tenders for road and infrastructure projects in Duqm

Completion of main road of 14 km and extension of service road in the showrooms zone



First package of Sultan Said bin Timor road

Duqm - :

During the current year, The Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD) announced floating tenders for the implementation of a number of service projects that translate SEZAD aspirations into making Duqm a city ready for living and working.

The tenders launched until the beginning of October 2018 included the provision of consultancy services for the design and supervision of the implementation of the second package of the development of the road of Sultan Said bin Timor NR32, the main road in Duqm.

Duqm Economist has learned that the tender includes doubling Sultan bin Timor along with redefining and developing the route along with the service routes to accommodate the future traffic requirements. According to the new project, the double road will be from the end of the first package of the project to SEZD northern border with a length of 14 km.

Services road in Showroom area

The current year also saw floating a tender for extension of the service road in the showrooms area. The project also includes the implementation of a single road with a length of about 3 km. The project is an extension of the current service road in front of SEZAD building and includes two roundabouts at its beginning and end, secondary entrances, pedestrian walkways, and rainwater drainage facilities.

Multiple tenders

The tenders floated also included one for consultancy services for the design and supervision of the implementation of the road from the Duqm Airport to Ras Markaz and consultancy services for the design and supervision of the implementation of the facilities and infrastructure associated with the fishery harbor. They also include lighting, operation and maintenance of roads, consultancy services of the marine berth in Duqm Port, automatic lighting system, consultancy services for the design and supervision of the implementation of the internal roads of the rocks garden neighborhood, operation and maintenance of traffic lights, and excavation of the logistics area in Duqm Port on 5.5 hectares. These also include the design and construction of sewage treatment plant for the city of Duqm, in addition to other tenders.

Awarding of projects

On the other hand, the current year has witnessed awarding the project of design and implementation of the service road in Al-Aman neighborhood in Duqm with a length of 8.3 km and a cost of OMR 3.8 million.

Also awarded were the consultancy services to prepare the initial design, review the detailed design, management and supervision of the new marine berth project at Duqm Port. The project costing OMR 4.1 million was awarded to Royal HaskoningDHV.

Tender for consultancy services for Ras Markaz road, land facilities of fishery harbor, and internal roads of the rocks garden area

Awarding project design and implementation of service road in Al-Aman neighborhood of 8.3 km

*The Sultanate's ambassador to Korea "The Republic Of Korea (ROK)" in an exclusive interview with **دوقم** :*

Trade exchange between the Sultanate and Korea will increase "has great potential to increase"



Interview in Seoul by Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi

H.E. Mohammed bin Salim Al-Harthy (Alharthy), the Sultanate's ambassador to the Republic of Korea, hailed the development of relations between both countries, stressing their keenness to broaden these relations to contribute further to increasing trade exchange, economic cooperation, and partnerships between the private sectors therein.

In an exclusive interview with Duqm Economist, H.E. Al-Harthy predicted that the coming years would see (witness) an increase in the volume of trade exchange between the Sultanate and South Korea after a decline in the last three years due the decline of Oil and gas prices and fluctuation the international market.

He pointed out that there are a number of reasons that make me optimistic in this regard, notably, the significant development in the bilateral relations in various fields. Add to this the keenness of both sides to promote them through encouraging economic partnerships between the private sectors in both countries. Beside the investment opportunities and incentives which are available in Oman in various sectors at the various industrial and free economic zones in one hand and the Korean experiences and potential of participation and partnership on other hand as well as the current successful participation of the Korean companies in the implementation of a number of projects in the Sultanate are clear indications» stated H.E. Mohammed bin Salim Al-Harthy, the Sultanate's ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

He referred to the promotional campaign of Duqm in Korea stating the profound interest accorded to the symposium by the Korean businesspeople. «The level of attendance from the Korean side reflected their keen interest and desire to know more about the investment opportunities in the Sultanate,» added Al-Harthy.

He highlighted the role the embassy to promote the Sultanate, both economically and touristically, and strengthen its presence in various events held in the Republic of Korea. He also noted the services and facilities provided by the embassy to the Omani citizens. In his capacity as the dean of the diplomatic corps in Korea and President of the Korean-Arab Society, the Sultanate's ambassador to Korea discussed his most important roles in promoting Arab-Korean cooperation as detailed below.



A number of meetings are held at the Embassy

PROMOTION IN SEOUL

The Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), in cooperation with the Embassy of the Sultanate in Korea, organized a promotional campaign in Seoul. What is the importance of this campaign from your point of view?

This campaign is part of SEZAD efforts in co-operation with the Sultanate's Embassy in Korea in line with the Sultanate's economic diversification strategy. It is also part of the follow-up on the visit of H.E. Lee Nak-yeon, the Korean Prime Minister, to the Sultanate last July. During that (high-profile) official visit, both sides discussed the need to boost cooperation and investment. The campaign also included a symposium in the Korean capital, Seoul, to highlight the investment opportunities and incentives available in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm in various sectors. Korean businesspersons from Seoul and other provinces attended the symposium.

We believe that this symposium is of great importance. The level of attendance from the Korean side reflected their keen interest in investment opportunities in Oman. It was also a promising opportunity to exchange knowledge and partnership between the Omani and Korean private sectors for joint investment in various sectors.

STRONG ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS

The Sultanate and the Republic of Korea have strong economic and political ties. May you shine light on these relations and their role in facilitating economic partnerships between the two countries?

The Omani-Korean relations date back to hundreds of years when the Omani merchants met with their Korean counterparts during the Silk Road area and during the Korean Silla (King-

dom) (Dynasty) in Gyeongju City, which was the junction of the Silk Road. In the modern era, the diplomatic relations started (established) in 1974 and the two sides have (maintained friendly and cordial relation) and both have strong trade and economic relations (cooperation). Korea imports oil and gas from the Sultanate, and many Korean companies participate in various construction, ports, petrochemicals and other projects. The Sultanate imports cars (automobiles), construction materials, electronics, electrical appliances and other materials from Korea. The relations between the two sides have developed greatly, broadened, and culminated with high-level mutual visits between the two sides, most recently the visit of the Korean Prime Minister in July and subsequent visits and meetings, including Omani-Korean Business (people) Forum in Muscat on the sidelines of the Prime Minister's visit. Then came that (followed by) investment Symposium organized by SEZAD in cooperation with the Sultanate's Embassy in the Republic of Korea.

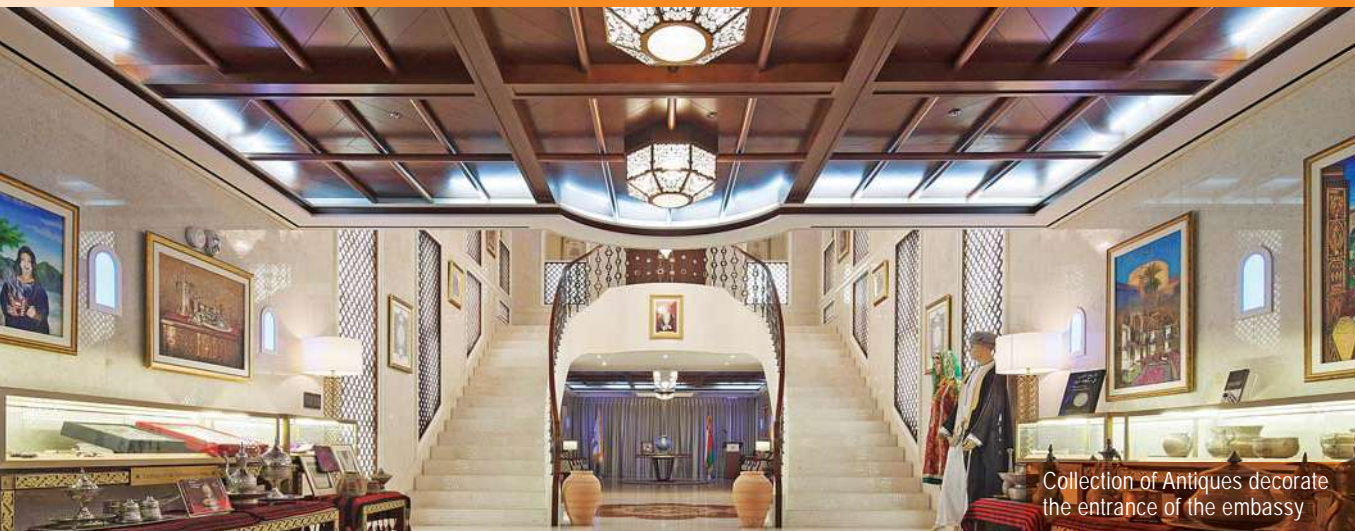
This is a catalyst for the strengthening and deepening of the relations and partnership between the two sides for wider fields to include the logistics, industrial, energy, mineral, fisheries, ICT, health, education and other fields. Other factors include the strong relations and keenness of both governments to strengthen relations and partnership on the one hand. Add to this the investment opportunities and incentives available in the Sultanate, its sound (safe) investment climate, political and economic stability and the strategic location and Korea's knowledge, expertise and willingness to share knowledge and experience on the other hand. This is also a key factor for partnership and co-operation. The Omani-Korean Joint Committee and the Consultative Committee (consultation meeting) play a major role in discussing the var-



The Sultanate's ambassador to Korea (ROK) during the interview with Editor-in-Chief of Duqm Economist Magazine

Promotional campaign in Korea strengthens private sector partnership and joint investments in both countries

Keen to translate the Sultanate's economic diversification strategy



Collection of Antiques decorate the entrance of the embassy

(Embassy initiative of)
Launch of
«Welcome to Oman»
Program promotes tourism and investment

Focus on modern Renaissance and the Sultanate's role in maritime navigation, the Silk Road and international trade throughout history

ious issues of cooperation to enhance relations, partnership and cooperation. The embassies of both countries play a major role in coordination, follow-up and facilitation to achieve the desired results.

HIGHLIGHTING THE SULTANATE AND ITS TOURISM AND INVESTMENT POTENTIALS

What is the role of the Sultanate's embassy in the Republic of Korea in this regard?

The embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Korea is keen to translate the Sultanate's economic diversification strategy. In this context, it launched the «Welcome to Oman» program three years ago, which aims to highlight the Sultanate and promote its tourism and investment through a series of various events that the embassy organizes and participates in throughout the year. These include the periodical tourism, investment and student forum at its headquarters (the embassy) in Seoul, the introductory (welcome to Oman) lectures organized by the embassy in Korean schools and universities, and the photo exhibition «Features of Oman» organized by the embassy in cultural centers and public squares (in Seoul and other cities in Korea). Add to this the participation in the various cultural, artistic, tourism (festivals) and investment forums organized by the Korean institutions to introduce the Sultanate historically and culturally, highlight its role in maritime navigation, the Silk Road and international trade over the ages, and the modern renaissance, tourist elements (attractions) and investment opportunities available in the Sultanate. We believe that these meetings and events have contributed greatly to introducing the Sultanate, understanding and rapprochement between the two sides, thus establishing a solid structure for strong relations. These form a solid bridge to build strong relations and in turn contribute greatly to enhancing trade relations between the two sides. The embassy coordinates, cooperates and provides appropriate facilities for the partnership, enhancing and deepening the prospects for cooperation and follow-up to achieve the desired results.

TRADE EXCHANGE

How much (what is the size or what is) is the volume of trade exchange between the two countries?

The volume of trade exchange between the two countries from 2011 to 2014 was between USD 5 and 6 billion, but fluctuated in the following years to USD 3 billion due to the decline in

oil and gas prices and the fluctuations in global economy. As I mentioned earlier, the Omani-Korean relations has witnessed remarkable development and both sides are keen to develop and strengthen cooperation relations in various fields and sectors. Within the framework of the Sultanate's economic diversification strategy, the opportunities and investment incentives available in the Sultanate, and the Korean expertise, knowledge, and keenness as asserted by the Korean Prime Minister during his visit, this will undoubtedly strengthen the relations and partnership between the two sides. In this way, this would double the volume of trade exchange between the two sides in the coming years, God willing. (In that or having said this) The private sector on both sides should take the lead (initiative or the opportunity) in partnership and investment in the sectors available.

RECIPROCAL VISITS (Exchange of visits)

May you please highlight the most prominent Omani delegations that visited Korea and the Korean delegations that visited the Sultanate this year?

The embassy coordinates visits between the two sides, including the visits (exchange) of students, youth, entrepreneurs, and businesspeople, as well as official visits and delegations. (For instance this year) The most important official delegations from the Korean side included the visit of the Prime Minister in July, and the accompanying delegation of senior officials from government institutions and companies. There was also a business forum held on the sidelines of the visit in coordination between the chambers of commerce and industry in the two countries. (Whereas) The most important visits from the Sultanate included that of H.E. Head (chairman) of Muscat Municipality and his participation in the international cooperation program and meeting with the Head of Seoul Municipality (H.E. Seoul mayor). There were also the visit of (H.E. chairman) of SEZAD (and accompanying delegation), the Minister of Tourism and his participation in the United Nations International Conference on Urban Tourism, the visit of H.E. the Minister of Oil and Gas, the participation of a delegation from the Ministry of Defense in the Defense Exhibition and other visits.

TOURIST INTEREST

Do you have statistics on the number of Korean tourists who visited the Sultanate and the number of tourists from the Omani side



to Korea during the past year?

During the past year, (around) 350 Korean tourists visited the Sultanate (including) in (5) tourist groups that visited many tourist sites. These groups expressed their fascination with the unique tourism features of the Sultanate, especially heritage, cultural, natural, and geological aspects as well as the traditions and customs of the Omani society. We expect that this number would increase in the coming years due to the love of the Korean people for tourism, but this requires further promotional and tourist campaigns.

For our part, the embassy is promoting tourism in the Sultanate to become one of the tourist destinations of the Koreans through the tourism forum we hold at the embassy, the exhibition «Profiles (Features) from Oman» and participation in the annual tourism exhibition and events and (other) festivals in Korea. We believe that the participation of the Ministry of Tourism in promotion and international tourism exhibitions in Korea, such as those in Germany and France, will greatly contribute to doubling the number of Korean tourists to the Sultanate. In addition, the direct route launched by Oman Air will open a direct link between the Sultanate and Korea and make Oman a unique tourist destination for Koreans.

On the other hand, the Republic of Korea has become a tourist destination attracting tourists from all over the world. The number of visitors from the Sultanate last year was (around) 1,300. We expect number from both sides will increase in the coming years.

Omani students in Korea

Are there Omani students studying in Korea? What services does the embassy provide to them?

Currently, there are five students, one of whom completes his doctorate in science at one of the most prestigious Korean universities and the others study for master's degree at a number of Korean universities. Last year, two Omani students received master's degree.

Omani students studying in Korea benefit from the Korean International Scholarship Program of the Korean Ministry of Education under which Korean universities offer scholarships to various countries. This program is open to competition, and Omani students have a number of seats each year. Korea is one of the leading countries in education and has an appeal from students from around the world. We hope that the Ministry of Higher Education in the Sultanate will send next year a number of students who have a general education diploma to study in the Korean universities.

For its part, the embassy supports this approach and works to provide all facilities and support for students to achieve excellence and success.

MULTIPLE FACILITIES

May you tell us about the other services provided by the embassy to Omanis visiting Korea?

The embassy is keen to provide all facilities and any information that Omanis visiting Korea may request. These include coordination and arrangement of visits, logistical support required in accordance with the available means, consular services, civil status, authentication, and all kinds of issues. We also provide services and care in the trade, education, health, safety, awareness, and guidance aspects among others. The embassy is keen to communicate with visitors and ensure their safety and the success of their visit. We often receive them at

Participation in the cultural, artistic festival including tourism and investment (festivals and) events held in Korea





Korean tourists to the Sultanate will increase in light of promotional tourism campaigns

the embassy, especially the student delegations and entrepreneurs to brief them on Korea, the Korean Renaissance (development), success factors, existing relations (bilateral relation), and prospects of cooperation.

STRENGTHENING ARAB COOPERATION WITH KOREA

As the dean of the diplomatic corps in the Republic of Korea and the Arab diplomatic corps as well as your presidency of the Korea-Arab Association (The Korea Arab Society (KAS)), what roles do you play? What is your role in promoting the positive outlook in Korea towards the Arab countries?

In accordance with the diplomatic protocol and practice, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps represents the ambassadors, heads of missions, and international organizations accredited in the Republic of Korea. Therefore, I am often hosted at various official events and meetings to represent and speak on behalf of ambassadors, heads of missions, and international organizations and to deliver welcome speeches at the various events, meetings and festivals. The diplomatic protocol and practice also require the newly appointed ambassadors to pay a courtesy call to the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and thus I welcome the new ambassadors in the embassy. During these visits, we discuss various issues about the relations and the nature of work and life in Korea. I often coordinate with the Secretariat of the Deanship to organize farewell parties to the departing ambassadors. This also applies to my deanship of the Arab diplomatic corps as well as to coordination and cooperation in the Council of Arab Ambassadors in the Re-


public of Korea.

As for my presidency of the Arab-Korean Association (Society), it organizes a series of cultural and artistic events to introduce Arab and Korean culture. It also holds the annual business seminar, lecture series, Arab cultural festival, film festival, a student forum and other activities aimed at introducing cultural, artistic, and heritage aspects and promote trade, economic and investment cooperation between the two sides. As President of the Association (Society), I preside over its meetings in coordination with the Secretariat and supervise the events and it organizes (which organizes). The establishment of the Association was . It is noteworthy to mention that the Korea Arab Society (KAS) was established in 2008 under the umbrella and supervision of the Korean Foreign Ministry which aims to promote understanding of the culture and traditions of both the Republic of Korea and the Arab world by implementing various programs for cooperation and exchanges, to create cooperative programs between the governments of the Republic of Korea and Members of the Arab League (22 countries) and to promote mutual friendly relations by implementing and supporting such projects, to contribute to the boosting of economic relations between the Republic of Korea and Members of the Arab League (22 countries) by increasing opportunities for economic and trade cooperation in the private sector.

Its members are the heads of the Arab missions accredited in the Republic of Korea, and representatives from the Korean companies and other institutions. It also have members who represent the Korean companies and institutions.

Signing a lease agreement to establish cement products factory



Muscat -  :

Duqm Port Company has signed a lease agreement with Assarain Concrete Products (Duqm) LLC (ACPD), which is member of Said Bin Salem Al Wahaibi Group - (also popularly known as Assarain Group).


Under the agreement, the company acquired a land area of 60 thousand square meters in the industrial zone of the Port of Duqm to establish a factory for high quality cement products.

The agreement was signed by Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of Port Duqm and Khalid Bin Saeed Bin Salem Al Wahaibi, Executive Director of Al Assarain Group.

Assarain Group will establish a mega block making plant that can produce high quality building blocks, interlocking tiles and special products. The establishment of the factory is part of Assarain's interest in contributing to the global infrastructure at Duqm.

As the company will be able to provide all the outstanding projects needs in the housing and tourism sector at the zone.

SEZAD joins to Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS)

Muscat -  :

The Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) has joined the Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS), which is the main procurement platform in the oil and gas sector in the Sultanate.

This followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between SEZAD and Business Gateways International LLC (BGI), the company responsible for running and managing the portal on behalf of the Ministry of Oil and Gas.

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Deputy CEO, signed the MoU on behalf of SEZAD while Mr. Hafedh bin Saif Al-Mahrouqi, Vice President of the Board of Directors of Business Gateways International.

By signing this MoU, SEZAD became the first non-oil and gas government entity to join JSRS. As a new member of JSRS, SEZAD will issue certificates to SMEs registered on the JSRS platform, enabling them to obtain preferential support from contractors operating in SEZD.

A JSRS aims to achieve the Government's objectives as supporting the local value added and JSRS certification is a mandatory requirement for contractors and suppliers seeking business opportunities in the oil, gas and other related sectors.

A JSRS allows to SEZAD provides a new business opportunities for certified SME to operate within the economic zone.

Spotlight on investment opportunities in Duqm at IPEC

Doha -  :

The Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD) participated in the International Product Exhibition and Conference (IPEC) held in Doha, Qatar, on 8-10 October 2018.

The IPEC is one of the main exhibitions held in the State of Qatar and witnesses a large presence of international companies, and SEZAD participation was part of that of 70 Omani companies to introduce their products and services.

SEZAD delegation received the attention of the visitors who expressed their desire to know the investment environment in Duqm. SEZAD delegation highlighted the investment opportunities available in SEZD and reviewed the incentives offered by SEZAD to the investors, the advantages of SEZD and its most prominent projects.

SEZAD participation in the IPEC comes as part of its efforts to diversify investments and attract international companies.



Aims to provide financial support and employment projects for local communities

Signing an agreement to establish “Tawasul Charitable Organization” in the SEZD



Minister of Social Development:
A qualitative leap that enhances cooperation between the local community in Duqm and companies operating in the zone

SEZAD Chairman:
The new organization unites community support efforts by companies rather than individual contributions

Muscat - :

In first of April 2018, Tawasul Charitable Organization was announced in the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD).

It aims to provide financial support and fund projects for the benefit of local communities in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) in particular and Al-Wusta Governorate in general to promote sustainable economic and social development according to the areas of work defined in its Articles of Association. These include entrepreneurship, training, education for work, health, environment, and supporting associations and sports clubs.

The agreement of “Tawasul Charitable Organization” was signed by officials of 8 companies: Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company, Oman Development Company for Economic Zone of Duqm, (Tatweer), Oman Petroleum Development Company, Port of Duqm Company, Oman Dry Dock Company, Oman Airports, Sebacic Oman Company, and Nahdat Al Duqm Holding Group. In the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Saeed Al Kalbani, Minister of Social Development and HE Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri, Chairman of the Economic Zone Authority.

HE Sheikh Mohammed Bin Saeed Al Kalbani affirmed that the establishment of Tawasul Charitable Organization is a qualitative step that enhances cooperation between the local community in Duqm and the companies operating in the zone, and expects this organization to have positive results for companies and society in the near future.

In a press meeting according to the signing ceremony, His Excellency said that the establishment of “Tawasul Organization is a pioneering idea by the companies operating in

the zone and is a product of continuous efforts by companies to serve the community and revitalize the economic sector with precision and provide various services in the areas of community support, training and marketing of products.

The establishment of the Charitable Organization is part of the attention accorded by the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) and the companies operating in SEZD to promote the concept and practices of social responsibility in SEZD.

HE Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri expressed his thanks and appreciation to the companies that part of “Tawasul”. He explained that the new organization will contribute to increasing awareness of social values and unifying the efforts of community support instead of individual contributions.

The companies elected Dr. Rashid bin Ali Al Balushi, Board Member of Tatweer, to be the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund. Nasehah Bint Mohammed Al Falahia, General Manager of Duqm Refinery Company was also elected as Deputy Chairman of the Board.

Foundation Objectives and fields of operation

The objectives of the Foundation include providing charitable and public benefits as stipulated in the areas of work specified in its Articles of Association, paying attention to raising the standard of living for social security families and low-income families in SEZD, spreading and establishing social responsibility concept among businesses in Al-Wusta Governorate. It also aims to raise the level of how businesses in SEZD deal with social responsibility concept, promote and support individual initiatives in social responsibility to consolidate it in the local community by honoring leaders from dif-



ferent sectors, and urges businesses in SEZD to develop its management strategy to reach international quality standards in the area of social responsibility. It will also support businesses in SEZD and motivate them to obtain international quality certification in the field of social responsibility, as well as support environmental initiatives and increase environmental awareness.

Board of Directors and Executive Management

The Board of Directors comprises the executive heads of the founding companies or their representatives. The Board appoints the CEO of the Foundation to manage its affairs and is accountable to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors appoints members of the Audit Committee at the first meeting of the Foundation for two years. However, the Board of Directors is not obliged to accept any of the names proposed by the Executive Management of the Foundation. The Foundation's Articles of Association stipulate the selection of the Board of Trustees from the members of the Government representatives, including two Walis, two members of the Shura Council, three members of the society and the CEO of the Foundation.

The executive management headed by the CEO shall manage all executive responsibilities of the Foundation in accordance with the executive regulations and powers vested in the CEO by the founding companies.

Foundation Funds

The financial assets of the Foundation shall consist of the income of the Foundation and the contributions of its founding companies. The financial year of the Foundation shall commence on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year except for the first fiscal year beginning from the date of registration and expiring on 31 December of the same year. The Foundation shall deposit its funds in bank ac-

counts bearing the name of the Foundation in an Omani bank and notify the Ministry of Social Development of the name of the bank and account number.

The Foundation's Articles of Association stipulate that the Board of Directors shall determine the ways in which the funds of the Foundation shall be used to achieve its objectives, including savings, to be used as a reserve fund for future expenditures. Payment must be made through the bank accounts of the Foundation in accordance with the internal rules in force in the Foundation approved by the Board of Directors, which determines the identity of those authorized to pay and sign on behalf of the Foundation.

It also stipulated that the Foundation should prepare its bank accounts in accordance with international accounting standards and that it should be audited by an auditing firm and audit reports should be sent to the Board of Directors. The Foundation shall also prepare the annual budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, including expected revenues and expenses. The final accounts shall be prepared and referred to the Board of Directors after being audited by the accredited auditing office, with a copy of the annual report and final accounts submitted to the Ministry of Social Development.

The Foundation's Articles of Association provide that the Foundation shall save a percentage of the annual financial resources received from the founding companies in favor of the reserve fund considered a savings fund. These funds shall be used to cover the budget deficit for projects committed by the founding companies or future projects, in exceptional cases and emergencies or for any other reasons approved by the Board of Directors. Taking into account that the reserve fund shall be invested and managed in accordance with the general guidelines for investment approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of the laws and internal policy.

**Election of
Dr. Rashid
Al Baloushi
as Chairman
of the Board
and Al-Falahia as Vice
President**

**Attention to
raising the
standard of
living for so-
cial security
families and
low-income
people and
encourage
individual
initiatives**

**Dissemina-
tion social
responsibil-
ity concept
in business
associations
in Al Wusta
governorate**

Oman Container Lines Signs New Agreements to Strengthen Shipping Lines in Oman's Ports



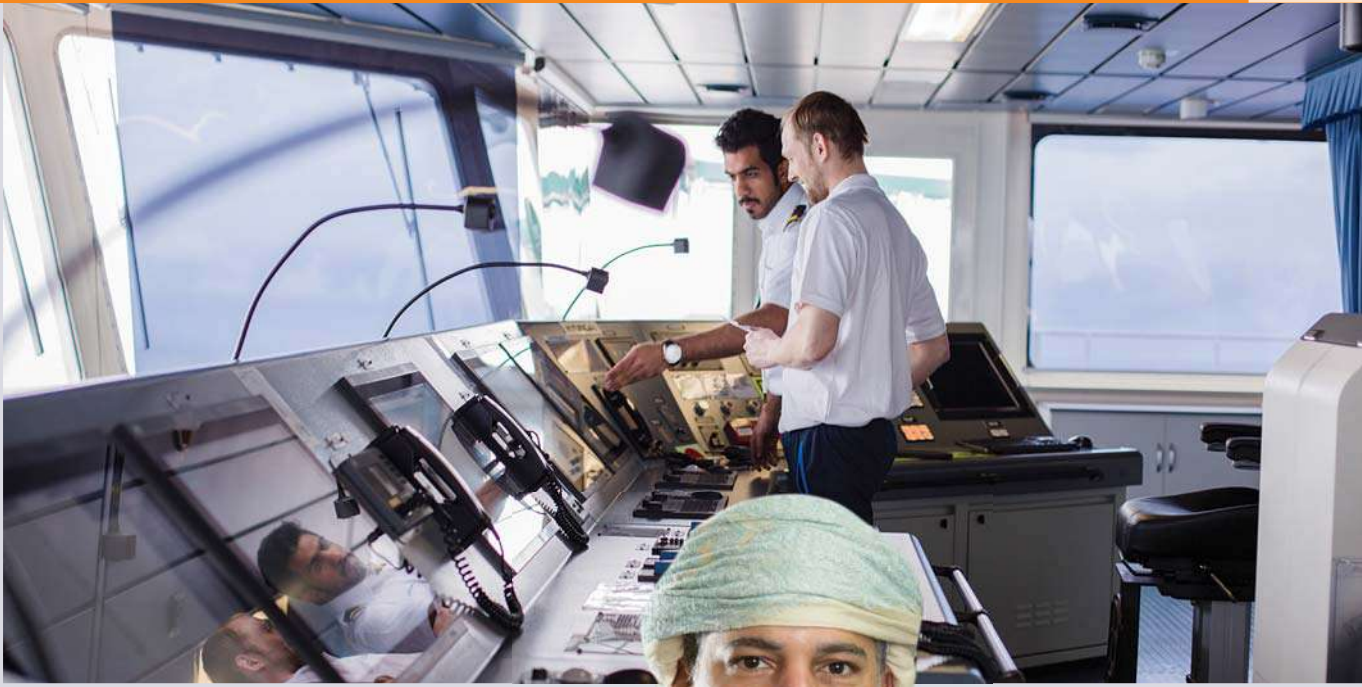
Muscat - **الدعم** :
Economy

Oman Container Lines Company, a subsidiary of Oman Shipping Company, has entered into a new phase by signing several local and international trade agreements to strengthen the shipping system in Omani ports. Early 2018, the company launched a shipping line linking the southern part of the Sultanate of Oman with its north, between Salalah, Duqm, Sohar and Jebel Ali ports in the United Arab Emirates.

Tariq Al-Junaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Shipping Company, said that Oman Container Lines Company has contributed since its inception to providing shipping lines connecting the Sultanate's ports with regional and international ports. The current shipping line between Sohar Port and Jebel Ali Port will serve many shipping companies operating in

the region and create a larger economic movement for this broad and dynamic sector.

He explained that the company is working to strengthen the link between Omani ports through its navigation line (Oman Express Line), as well as linking the Sultanate's ports to the ports of the United Arab Emirates through shipping lines (Gulf Express Line). The compa-



ny started operations as a fixed-line carrier and has transformed itself into a third-party container operator. The company is expanding its shipping operations to include the region's most important ports.

He stressed that the current time is appropriate to expand business operations by strengthening the maritime link between the various Omani ports. This will not only provide additional trade routes for trading partners, but will also contribute positively to the provision of other solutions for the local transport of goods by sea between local ports and this reduce the pressure on roads. This also have a significant impact on increasing local value added and achieving integration between various economic sectors in the Sultanate.

He stressed that the prices and speed of handling in Omani ports are the best in the region, adding that the Sultanate's ports recorded a remarkable increase in container growth during the past year .

«If these figures are a true reflection of how the Sultanate's ports have achieved high levels



Tariq Al- Junaidi

of competitiveness in the region, they also express optimism about the growing contribution of the ports sector in the national economy in the light of the efforts to develop the logistics system and attract more investments to this sector,» concluded Al-Junaidi.



Tariq Al-Junaidi: optimistic about the growth of the port sector's contribution to the national economy

Focusing on expanding business operations and enhancing maritime links between Oman's various ports

Pricing and handling speed in Omani ports are the best in the region

Decision No. (45/2018)

ISSUING THE BYLAW ORGANIZING AND MANAGING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN DUQM

Pursuant to the Royal Decree No. 119/2011 establishing the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm and issuing its regulations ,
The System of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm issued by the Royal Decree No. 79/2013,
The approval of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm,
And as per the exigencies of the public interest,

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED

Article One

The provisions of the attached Bylaw shall apply to organizing and managing exhibitions and events in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm.

Article Two

All those who engage in activities concerning the organization and management of exhibitions and events in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm shall rectify their situation to be in compliance with the provisions of the attached Bylaw within six (6) months from its effective date.

Article Three

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

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

Issued on: 15 Dhu Al-Hijjah 1439
Corresponding to: 26 August 2018

THE BYLAW ORGANIZING AND MANAGING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN DUQM

Chapter One Definitions Article (1)

In the application of the provisions of this Bylaw, the following terms shall have the respective meanings assigned to each unless the context requires otherwise:

Authority: The Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm.

Zone: The Special Economic Zone in Duqm.

Board: The Board of Directors of the Authority.

Chairman: The Chairman of the Board.

Specialized Consumer Exhibition: Any trade fair that displays and sells specialized products or services with a similar or identical nature.

One-State Exhibition: Any trade fair of a particular country that displays products or services produced or offered in that country.

National Products and Industries Exhibition: A trade fair that displays and sells Omani made products.

Charity Exhibition: A trade fair that displays and sells different products or services and all its income goes to charity.

Cultural Exhibition: A trade fair that displays and sells specialized scientific, educational, cultural and artistic products and services.

Eid Exhibition: A trade fair that displays and sells various products organized before and during Eids to purchase Eid needs.

Events: Occasions organized to communicate and share experiences, information, discussion, and awareness, and present research results, such as conferences, forums, seminars, lectures, evenings and workshops.

License: A written approval issued by the Authority to a commercial establishment regarding the organization and management of exhibitions and events.

Licensee: Any commercial establishment (company or institution) issued a License.

Chapter Two Licensing Conditions and Procedures Article (2)

Those wishing to organize and manage exhibitions and events in the Zone shall obtain a License.

Article (3)

The applicant shall submit a License application to the Authority on the designated form at least thirty (30) days before the specified date of the exhibition or event accompanied with the following documents and details as per the type of each application:

- 1- A copy of the Articles of Association of the License applicant and its commercial register.
- 2- A list of the names of the commercial establishments, both Omani and foreign, which will participate in the exhibition, their addresses, and the activity in which it will participate.
- 3- A list of the products and services displayed and sold, the name of the exhibitor, and his details, accompanied by the documents indicating their validity.
- 4- A copy of the insurance policy for the exhibitors if they are foreigners.
- 5- A proof of obtaining the approval of the concerned parties as per the type of exhibition or event.
- 6- The payment receipt of the application review fee.

Article (4)

The application for a License shall not be considered and decided on unless it has provided all of the documents and data provided for in this Regulation.

The License applicant shall not recover the fee paid or the documents submitted in the case of keeping the application on file or rejecting it.

Article (5)

In case the License application does not meet the conditions and requirements stipulated in this Bylaw, the Authority shall notify the applicant of the deficiencies in his application and grant him a grace period not exceeding fifteen (15) days from the date of notification to complete the deficiencies. Otherwise, the Authority shall keep the application on file.

Article (6)

The Authority shall decide on the License application within ten (10) business days, beginning on the date the application completes all the documents and data provided for in this Bylaw. In case of rejection, the decision must be justified.

The applicant may appeal the rejection decision to the Chairman within sixty (60) days from the date of notification, or from the date of expiry of the abovementioned period. The decision on the appeal shall be final.

If the Authority approves the License application, the License applicant shall pay the fee to issue the License within fifteen (15) days from the date of approval. Otherwise, the License application shall stand as void. This shall not result in any liability on the Authority.

The Regulation binds practitioners of the activity of organization and management of exhibitions and events in SEZD to rectify their positions within 6 months from the date of its coming into entry

The Regulation provisions include various types of exhibitions and events and require obtaining a license for those wishing to organize them.

The license application shall be decided within 10 business days

SEZAD may float a tender regarding the organization of consumer exhibitions in accordance with the terms and conditions determined by the Board of Directors

Ten days for specialized consumer exhibition, seven for cultural and charitable exhibitions and five days for events

Licensee shall notify SEZAD in writing of the postponement or cancellation of any exhibition or event two days prior to its scheduled date

Article (7)

The Authority may float a tender regarding the organization of consumer exhibitions in accordance with the cases and conditions determined by the Board.

Article (8)

For obtaining a License to hold jewelry and precious stones exhibitions, the applicant shall submit a prior approval of the Directorate General of Standards and Metrology at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Article (9)

For obtaining a License to hold exhibitions for the promotion and sale of pharmaceutical and medicinal products and natural herbs used for medical and therapeutic purposes, the applicant shall submit a prior approval from the Ministry of Health.

Article (10)

The regional and international organizations that have relations with the Sultanate may establish an annual marketing exhibition after obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided it is organized by the Licensee.

Article (11)

It is permissible to License local non-governmental associations or charities to hold a charity exhibition on their own or through a Licensee.

Article (12)

It is permissible to License the governmental bodies and civil society associations to hold an exhibition of national products and industries.

Article (13)

It is permissible to License the commercial centers or complexes to hold promotional and marketing exhibitions for commercial establishments that have headquarters inside them only on their own or by a Licensee.

Article (14)

The License period for exhibitions and events shall be as follows:

- 1- No more than (10) ten days for specialized consumer and one-state exhibitions.
- 2- No more than (7) days for charity, cultural, and Eid exhibitions.
- 3- Not more than (5) five days of other events and exhibitions.

In all cases, the Authority may, at the request of the Licensee, extend the duration of the exhibition and event if the need arises.

Article (15)

The Licensee shall not assign the License issued to him in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw to third parties or to waive the rights and obligations arising therefrom without the written consent of the Authority and the payment of the prescribed fees.

Article (16)

The application for assignment of the License shall be submitted on the designated form together with the following documents and details:

- 1- Original License.
- 2- Reasons and justifications for submitting an application.
- 3- A proof that the assignee meets the same conditions and requirements as provided in this Bylaw for obtaining the License.
- 4- The Receipt of the payment of the application review fee.

The Authority shall decide on the application within (5) five working days beginning on the date the application completes all the documents and data provided for in the preceding paragraph. In case of rejection, the decision shall be justified.

The applicant may appeal the rejection decision to the Chairman within sixty (60) days from the date of notification, or from the date of expiry of the abovementioned period. The decision on the appeal shall be final.

Chapter Three Obligations of Licensee

Article (17)

The Licensee shall submit to the Authority a map of the exhibition, indicating the location of each participant according to the distribution of the approved platforms.

Article (18)

The Licensee shall notify the Authority in writing of the postponement or cancellation of any licensed exhibition or event at least two days prior to the date specified for the exhibition or event.

Article (19)

The Licensee shall issue identification cards to all exhibitors indicating the exhibitor's data and the commercial establishment to which he belongs, with a new color photograph of the exhibitor affixed to it. The Authority shall approve these cards before opening the exhibition and the exhibitors shall wear them throughout the period of the exhibition.

Article (20)

The Licensee shall provide security personnel throughout the duration of the exhibition or event.

Article (21)

The Licensee shall appoint a representative to be present at the venue of the exhibition or event throughout its period.

Article (22)

The Licensee shall submit to the Authority a detailed report on each licensed exhibition he has organized within thirty (30) days from its end date.

Chapter Four Controls of Organizing and Evaluating Exhibitions and Events

Article (23)

Exhibitions and events shall take place in hotel halls or in any similar exhibition hall, which meets the conditions required for holding exhibitions and events determined by the Authority, except for the exhibitions on the sidelines of festivals and forums held in the respective venues of the same.

In all cases, the Licensee shall comply with the area of the exhibition or event as the Authority deems fit.

Article (24)

No exhibition or event shall take place nor promotion or advertising thereof in various media outlets or through social networking before obtaining the necessary License from the Authority.

Article (25)

Arabic shall be the language used in advertising and promotion of various exhibitions and events and other languages in addition to Arabic may be used.

Article (26)

Exhibitions may include the organization of certain relevant events, after obtaining the approvals from the concerned bodies.

Article (27)

The exhibition may be accompanied by promotional offers for the distribution of gifts to the public, or the distribution of raffle coupons for prizes or gifts, subject to obtaining the necessary approvals from the Authority and the other concerned bodies.

Article (28)

The Licensee may collect money from the public for the entry of exhibitions or events after obtaining the approval of the Authority.

Article (29)

Any exhibition of national products and industries shall not display any foreign products or items. All exhibitors participating in the exhibition and those in charge of the displays shall be Omani.

Article (30)

When organizing promotional and commercial exhibitions for commercial establishments, the commercial centers or complexes shall not do the following:

- 1- Allow commercial participation from outside the commercial center or complex.
- 2- Display any products that are about to expire.
- 3- Display any perishable food products, such as dairies and their derivatives.
- 4- Display any damaged or old materials to dispose of them by promoting them in preparation for their sale.
- 5- Display counterfeit goods, products, equipment, devices and machines that do not meet the specifications and standards approved.

No discounts or promotions shall take place at the exhibition or advertised except after obtaining the approval of the Authority and the concerned bodies.

Article (31)

The Authority may conduct an evaluation of the exhibition after it ends and may instruct others to do so on its behalf. In all cases, the Licensee shall bear the expenses of the evaluation.

Article (32)

The exhibition evaluation should include the following

- 1- The actual number of days of the exhibition.
- 2- The actual area of the exhibition except corridors.
- 3- The number of local and foreign participations.
- 4- The quality, level and homogeneity of exhibits.
- 5- The public turnout and their impression.
- 6- The level of organization and the Licensee's compliance with the terms of the License and the provisions of this Regulation.
- 7- The extent of the participation of owners of small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs, craftspeople, professionals and home business owners in the exhibition and the percentage allocated to them.
- 8- The level of marketing of the exhibition and accompanying promotional advertisements, the means used in marketing, and the quality of the prizes and gifts given to the visitors, if any.
- 9- The extent of the presence of the representative of the Licensee throughout the duration of the exhibition, the extent of his cooperation with the exhibitors, the body where the venue was, and the employees of the Authority.

Chapter Five Administrative Sanctions

Article (33)

Any person who violates the provisions of this Bylaw shall be liable to an administrative fine of OMR 5,000.

This fine shall double in case of recurrent violations along with the suspension of activity for three (3) months and the cancellation of all permits issued to the violator for the organization of any type of exhibitions during the period of suspension.

In all cases, the Authority shall take all the procedures prescribed by law to shut down the violating (exhibition) or those exhibitions held without a License.

Licensee shall provide security personnel throughout the duration of the exhibition or event

Arabic is the main language for advertising and promoting exhibitions and events

Licensee may collect money from the public for the entry of exhibitions or events after SEZAD approval

There shall not be any display any foreign products in exhibitions of national products or industries



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



*Today, Duqm is
at the heart of the
world, and everyone
has realized that
there is a bright
future waiting for
this city*

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Why Duqm?

(1)

«Why Duqm?» This question was on my mind when I first visited in 2008, one year after the start of work on Duqm and the Dry Dock. There was only one paved road in Duqm with the Wilayat of Mahut, Al-Jazir and Hima and one or two restaurants and a few shops in Duqm market. It did not have any bank or even an ATM, as well as tourist facilities, which were dreams frequented by people.

(2)

At that time, some saw it difficult for the City of Duqm to develop hundreds of kilometers away from Muscat. Its Omani and expatriate population was less than 4,300 (according to the 2003 census) and was dependent on Sinaw market, about 350 km away and Muscat even farther away. Those wishing to withdraw money had to travel 200 kilometers to reach the nearest bank.

(3)

«Why Duqm?» This question is still on the minds of many visitors to Duqm or those who hear about it. This question is constantly repeated not only in conferences, seminars, local forums, dialogues and press coverages but also in external promotional campaigns that seek to clarify the essence of Duqm, its advantages, and what it offers to investors.

(4)

When we see a new integrated city on the shores of the Arabian Sea overlooking the Indian Ocean, where the world trade between the East and the West passes and the global companies wonder and want to visit and invest in it, we become aware that we write a new history. This history is of a site that was very far away from the world's attention and aspirations.

(5)

Today, Duqm is at the heart of the world, and everyone realized that there is a bright future waiting for this city, which is currently witnessing the establishment of various projects in various economic sectors, and we look forward to tomorrow as we celebrate the operation of dozens of projects that paint the new face of the city of Duqm.