

Launch of Duqm Integrated Power and Water Plant



Duqm

inaugurates
heavy
industries era



Production of Sebacic
Oman refinery kicks off



Successful
pumping of water
to the oil berth at
Port of Duqm



#BUILDING A LEGACY... TOGETHER!

We are building a legacy for the future.
A future where our work connects Duqm to the World.
A future of an engaged community, great at their jobs and part of a family.

Find out more about our legacy building activities at www.duqmrefinery.om/news

OMAN DRYDOCK COMPANY

A WORLD-CLASS SHIP REPAIR YARD

Strategically located, facilitated with world-class expertise and committed to quality, Oman Drydock welcomes the world to the shores of Oman. As one of the biggest ship repair yards in the Middle East, Oman Drydock is specialized in vessel conversions and major structural On-shore fabrications, with a capacity to repair over 200 ships per year, including vessels as large as ULCCs.

- *One-Stop Service Including Slop & Sludge Reception.*
- *Most Modern & High Quality Facilities.*
- *Specialized for LNGC repair.*
- *Ideal Climate For Painting.*
- *Strategic Location.*

Dock No. 1	410 m x 95 m	600,000 DWT
Dock No. 2	410 m x 80 m	500,000 DWT
Quay	2800 m	Jib Crane 14 sets

Tel: (+968) 25210222 | Fax: (+968) 25210120
Email: marketing@omandrydock.com
Website: www.omandrydock.com





مجمع شموخ للتعدين SHUMUKH MINING COMPLEX

SHUMOOKH MINING INDUSTRIES IS THE FIRST INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN THE SULTANATE

The vision of the complex of Shumookh Mining Industries is to encourage local and international companies to exploit the mineral resources available in the SEZAD to establish projects with a profitable economic return.

In Shumookh complex, we seek to reflect the directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to enhance the added value of mineral wealth and make it a contributor to the national economy.



CLINKER FACTORY



GLASS FACTORY



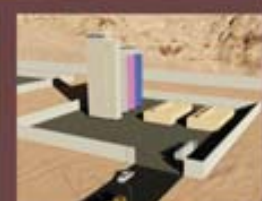
FERTILIZER FACTORY



ALUMINUM FACTORY



3D SHOT



PAINT FACTORY

Hub for Heavy Industries

Heavy industries sector is one of the main sectors targeted by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) because it is not possible to establish an economic zone with diversified investments without heavy industries, such as refineries and petrochemical industries. Since its inception, SEZAD has been working towards attracting and encouraging large companies to take Duqm as a main location for their investments.

The commercial operation of the Sebacic Refinery, commencement of construction works of Duqm Refinery, construction of the crude oil storage terminal at Ras Markaz, start of work on the construction of the integrated power and water plant, and gas supply project to SEZD lay the foundation for the establishment of an integrated zone of heavy industries. This zone would include various projects that would promote SEZD performance and its economic contribution.

At the same time, SEZAD is completing Duqm Port, which is a major engine for heavy industries and other economic activities. SEZAD has already completed many works that form a part in the various port packages. There is good progress in the various work stages. Earlier this year, it celebrated the flow of water into the docking area of the oil berth in one of the world's most unique projects that included dredging the port basin first and then flooding it with water, the first time in Oman's ports.

SEZD is also witnessing the establishment of a special corridor for Duqm Refinery products from the Refinery Complex to the liquid and bulk berth and a set of roads linking Duqm Refinery and the heavy and medium industries zones in the Port. This is in addition to a dual carriageway to Ras Markaz terminal 80 km from Duqm city center as part of SEZAD efforts to enhance the performance of the heavy industries sector in SEZD.

The attention accorded by SEZAD to making Duqm as a hub for heavy industries is not limited to the establishment of the supporting infrastructure. It also extends to include the provision of many incentives and facilities, such as tax and customs exemptions, provision of suitable plots according to the needs of projects and many other services provided by SEZAD one-stop shop (OSS). This is in addition to the facilities available at Port of Duqm, in both its commercial and industrial sections, and the various advantages of SEZD strategic location on the Indian Ocean. These advantages provide a suitable environment for the growth of the heavy industry sector and encourage investors to be adopt Duqm as their main destination.



Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



The attention accorded by SEZAD to making Duqm as a hub for heavy industries is not limited to the establishment of the supporting infrastructure. It also extends to include the provision of many incentives and facilities.

Quarterly Magazine on
Economic Affairs and Free
Zones

Issued by:
Special Economic Zone
Authority Duqm (SEZAD)

General supervisor

Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al-Jabri

Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi

Editor-in-Chief

Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Shezawi

Editors:

Saleh bin Nabhan Al-Ma'amari

Correspondence and
advertising in the name of
the Editor-in-Chief to:

P.O. Box: 25
Postal Code: 103,
Bareeq Al-Shatti, Oman

Tel:
0096824507572
/0096824507540

Fax:
0096824587400

Email:
magazine@duqm.gov.om

Website:
www.duqm.gov.om

The views expressed in
the magazine are those of
the authors and do not
necessarily reflect the
opinion of the magazine.

The magazine welcomes
specialized research and
academic studies

+ 968 71144433

@sezaduqm

@Sezad Duqm

الدقم
الاقتصادية
Duqm

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

In this issue:



SQU establishes research centers in Duqm

15



Indian Prime Minister meets with
Representatives of the Participating Parties

18



The promotion campaign in Delhi calls on Indian
companies to explore investment opportunities in Duqm

23



PRODUCTION OF SEBACIC OMAN REFINERY KICKS OFF

26



Colas joins French companies syndicate wishing to invest in Duqm

52



Duqm Airport officially enters service

54

**Abdullah Al Hashmi:
Provide power and
water needs of heavy
industries**

32



**President of AIIB
praises social
and economic
development in Duqm**

38



Two protection dams and three main canals for discharge of surface water

46



محاجر الدقم
DUQM QUARRIES



**Duqm Quarries Company
provides raw materials
for projects including:**

- ▶ Screen Sand
- ▶ Stones of various kinds
- ▶ Aggregate
- ▶ Limestone
- ▶ Sub Base
- ▶ Riprap
- ▶ Aggregate Base Course (ABC)

**توفر شركة محاجر الدقم المواد
الأولية للمشاريع والتي تشمل:**

- ◀ الرمل الناعم
- ◀ الأحجار بمختلف أنواعها
- ◀ الحصى
- ◀ حجر جيرى
- ◀ حصى مع رمل
- ◀ أحجار مختلفة الأحجام
- ◀ حصى الطبقة الأساسية

Our Mission to establish a standard and world class, environmental friendly quarry company that in its own capacity will favorably compete with other quarrying.

Contact Us: +968 90999288, +968 98506745, +968 91253682
E-mail: moizuddin@duqmquarries.om

www.duqmquarries.om



World Class Business Cities

Madayn attracts industrial investments and provides continued support, through regional and global competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value adding services, and easy governmental processes.

@madaynoman



madayn.om

YOUR HEALTHCARE PARTNER IN DUQM



COMING UP

KIMS Hospital and CT SCAN

Service Hours:

Saturday • 9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm
Sunday - Thursday • 7am to 10pm
Friday • 2pm to 10pm

KIMS
MEDICAL
COMPLEX



مجمع
كيمز
الطبي

Specialties:

General Practice • Obstetrics & Gynecology
Dental • Orthopedics • Internal Medicine

Facilities & Services:

Inpatient • Laboratory • X-ray & Ultrasound
Pharmacy • Audiometry • Emergency
Ambulance

Packages:

Visa Medical • Fit to Work Certificate
Health Check ups

Other Services:

Tele Consultation with Specialists
On-site Medical Camps



+968 9136 9233

+968 2476 0400



+968 7157 2000



info.duqm@kimsoman.com • Block 53, Zone 40N, Plot No. 379, Sultanate of Oman
Next to City Hotel



PORT OF DUQM

STRATEGICALLY LOCATED. MOST PREFERRED.

Port of Duqm is the heart of the biggest Special Economic Zone development of the Middle East and situated on the south eastern seaboard of the Sultanate of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. It is strategically positioned outside of the Arabian Gulf serving key markets in Asia, East Africa and the wider MENA region, while taking benefit from its central location towards the oil and gas industry in the Sultanate. The Port is rapidly evolving into the next transshipment hub and aims to be **“the most preferred multi-purpose port of the region”**.

Call now **+968 24342800/1** or email **info@portduqm.com** for more information



+968 24342800/1

info@portduqm.com

www.portduqm.com

[f](#) [t](#) @PORTOFDUQM

[i](#) [y](#) @PORTDUQM

[in](#) @PORT-OF-DUQM-COMPANY-SAOC



Experts and specialists set their visions for Smart Duqm City

Duqm 'Society and Economy' Forum discusses international experiences and successful initiatives in smart cities

Yahya Al-Jabri: Taking advantage of modern technologies to make Duqm a smart city

Excellence in IT sector has become key to success and economic growth

Utilizing modern technologies to serve economic life and attract more investments



One of the sessions

Muscat - **الدقم** :

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), confirmed that SEZAD works towards utilizing modern technology to make Duqm a smart city and employs these technologies to serve the economic and public life in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

This was part of his speech at the opening of the Fourth "Duqm ... Society and Economy" Forum organized by SEZAD in cooperation with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Al-Wusta Branch, under the theme "Smart Cities Economy."

Al-Jabri indicated that SEZAD has developed a geographical information system (GIS) in SEZD through which digital conversion, archiving and analysis of all geographical information, including organizational schemes, various development sites, and infrastructure corridors, such as roads, electricity, rain water drainage take place. It also launched a mobile smart application to ac-

tivate communication between SEZAD and citizens and visitors.

Global qualitative leap

Al-Jabri noted that the development of information and communications technology (ICT) in the past years has contributed to the realization of a global qualitative shift not only to this sector, but various economic sectors and social life, and excellent therein has become the key to success and economic growth.

"Our quest to employ modern technology in various areas of economic and social life in Duqm will contribute to attracting more investments to SEZD, which we are endeavoring to make an essential option for investors," added Al-Jabri.

Broad attendance

The Forum, held under the patronage of H.E. Sultan Bin Salem Al-Habsi, Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, saw the attendance of a large number of specialists, experts and those interested in the Smart Cities sector.



Yahya Al-Jabri during a speech at the forum



Side Exhibition

Dr. Salim bin Sulaiman Al-Junaibi, Vice Chair of the OCCI for Economic Affairs and Branches in Al-Wusta, said that the focus of the Forum on the economy of smart cities was to promote technology in the business sector and investment projects and to contribute to the development of the first building blocks of intelligent cities platforms in the Sultanate.

In his presentation, Saleh Al-Hasani, Director General of Investor Services at SEZAD, reviewed the most important investment opportunities in SEZD and SEZAD role in attracting investments.

Visions

The participating experts provided their visions on smart cities. Brett King, founder and CEO of Moven Company, indicated, "Artificial intelligence (AI) makes communication and information technology services more flexible, efficient and sustainable. The use of information technology, digital technology and telecommunications services contributes to the provision of highly efficient public services and improves resource utilization. Smart cities aim at developing many areas, the most important of which are infrastruc-

ture and public services."

Sandy Lowe, Vice CEO of Occidental International, reviewed the company's latest digital technology in the oil extraction process, explaining that these technologies are part of the company's plan to introduce AI into all its operations.

International initiatives and experiences

The Forum workshops touched upon a number of initiatives in the smart city industry, and also reviewed international experiences for a number of smart cities, including Taipei City in Taiwan, the British city of Bristol and Songdo city in South Korea.

The workshops discussed the future trends of the banking and financial technology industry and AI and alternative energy production, future of the industry and logistics sector.

On the sidelines of the Forum, a small and medium enterprises (SMEs) innovation exhibition took place focusing on the smart and digital applications and innovations offered by SMEs. There were also an exhibition of Korean companies specializing in smart city technology and an exhibition for the sponsoring companies.

Brett King:
AI makes services more flexible, efficient and sustainable



Attendees

Forum discusses importance of AI in the banking industry, alternative energy and logistics future

Tatweer signs MoU with Omantel to deploy Smart City Solutions in Duqm

MoU aims to create an intelligent community constantly in touch with information technology

Provide an integrated smart experience for residents, investors and visitors

Focusing on the needs of existing and future facilities in line with the needs of smart cities



Muscat - :

The Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer), and Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that provides technical solutions to make Duqm a smart city.

Salem bin Yasser Al Sulaimani and Talal bin Said Al Mamari, the CEOs of Tatweer and Omantel respectively signed the MoU.

The signing of the MoU was on the sidelines of the Fourth Duqm Forum "Duqm ... Society and Economy" organized by the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) and the branch of and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) in Al Wusta Governorate under the title "Smart Cities Economy".

According to the MoU, the two companies will identify SEZAD needs of solutions that meet the requirements of smart cities to begin implementation.

The MoU aims to create an intelligent community constantly in touch with information technology. It also aims to provide an integrated smart experience for residents, investors and visitors of Duqm, encourage the community to use smart solutions and deploy them in Duqm, focusing on the needs of existing and future facilities in line with the needs of smart cities and in a way that contributes to promoting the existing assets in Duqm.

The MoU seeks to make ICT services more flexible, efficient and sustainable with the use of information technology, digital technology and telecommunications services, provision of better public services for the population, and ensuring better use of resources and in line with environmental conservation requirement and in collaboration with Huawei – the strategic partner for omantel.

Main areas

The MoU covers key areas, including infrastructure, public services, tourism services,

security and safety services, smart harbor solutions, solutions for campus, traffic lights, road lighting, smart building management and waste management.

It also covers transport services, truck weights, smart bus station, parking, video surveillance, vehicle plate identification, WIFI public network, one-stop shop services and SEZAD e-application "My Duqm".

Strengthening the needs of the region

Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, said "We are proud to have a strategic partnership with Tatweer that aims to turn Duqm into an attractive business and tourism destination for investors in the SEZD, which requires mutual efforts by the public and private sectors. Omantel has already installed state-of-the-art technologies in Duqm and prepared the ground for a smart city in order to maximize efficiency in various operations, including facility management."

He also added, "This is yet another partnership that Omantel forms to bolster smart cities and it comes in addition to our support for Al Mouj Muscat, and KOM in cooperation with the ITA. These partnerships, along with our significant investments in Industry 4.0 technologies, reaffirms our commitment to help the Sultanate achieve its digital transformation vision and support the sustainable development of the technology sector."

Deployment of smart city solutions

The MoU reflects SEZAD-Tatweer vision to deploy smart cities solutions that contribute to attract investments, create an attractive investment environment, and make Duqm a modern city capable of meeting the needs of its residents in work, residence and settlement, strengthen SEZD position as a regional hub in industry, logistics, trade and tourism.

Tatweer is the executive arm of SEZAD in the field of infrastructure, project and asset management, and investment development and management.



Usufruct agreement signed with SEZAD

SQU establishes research centers in Duqm

Focus on marine biology, renewable energy, earthquakes, cultural and economic studies

Muscat - :

On 21 March 2019, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) signed a usufruct agreement with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) under which the latter would have the right to use the land in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) to establish research centers in a number of fields.

The signatory on part of SEZAD was His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairperson of SEZAD Board, while H.E. Dr. Ali bin Saud Al Bimani, SQU Chancellor, signed it on behalf of SQU. Under the agreement, SEZAD will allocate 20,000 square meters of land to the project.

SQU will set up research centers in the areas of marine life, marine navigation, disasters and earthquakes, cultural, social, economic and industrial studies, renewable en-

ergy, telecommunications and remote sensing.


The project targets different segments of academics, researchers, scientists, and students of undergraduate and graduate studies, and some public and private sector institutions concerned with research and its results. The estimated cost of the project expected to be underway in 2020 and start operations in 2022, will be about OMR 1,000,000.

The establishment of the research centers is part of the interests of SEZAD and SQU to strengthen research in the Sultanate given that Duqm has many features that stimulate scientific research because of its geographical location off the Indian Ocean and its geological characteristics and nature of diverse terrain.

The project will provide 50 job opportunities in the first phase and increase in subsequent years with the increase in research projects implemented in Duqm.

SEZAD Chairman receives a delegation from the Senate of Pakistan



Muscat - :

On 19 March 2019, Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chair of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) received the delegation from Parliamentary Friendship Committee between the State Council and the Senate of Pakistan headed by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi.

H.E. SEZAD Chairman affirmed the strong relations between the Sultanate and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, pointing out the Sultanate's keenness to develop these relations especially in the aspects related to the economic and industrial zones, pointing to the prom-

ising prospects for bilateral cooperation in light of the abundant opportunities and investment opportunities of countries.

During the meeting, Mr. Saleh bin Homoud Al-Hasani, Director General of Investor Services at SEZAD, gave a presentation on the importance of SEZD strategic location, its advantages and incentives to encourage investors, and a review of the most prominent investment projects implemented therein.

The meeting was attended by honorable Majid bin Said Al-Rawahi, Chair of the Oman-Pakistan Friendship Committee at the State Council and H.E. Ali Javed, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Sultanate.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ithraa in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition

The Sultanate Offers Diverse Opportunities for Investment in Various Economic Sectors

We Look Forward to Successful Economic Partnerships between Omani and Indian Companies

The Omani Investment Product has the ability to Compete Internationally



Yahya Al- Jabri delivers his speech in Gujarat Summit



Ahmedabad (India)

by Mohammed Al Shezawi:

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al- Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development "Ithraa" and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEZAD affirmed that the Sultanate offers diverse opportu-

nities for investment in various economic sectors.

H.E. added, in his speech in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition opened on January 18, 2019, under the patronage of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that the Summit provided a good opportunity for Indian companies to explore investment opportunities in the Sultanate. He expressed his hope that the coming period will witness economic partnerships between the two sides, especially with companies operating in the Indian state of Gujarat.

H.E. also added that the participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition opened many prospects for strengthening economic partnerships between the two countries, stressing that the Omani investment product can compete internationally. He also invited the Summit participants to visit the Sultanate's pavilion at the Exhibition.

At the end of his speech, H.E. expressed





Number of the Members of the Omani Delegation during the Summit

his appreciation to the organizers of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition for their invitation to the Sultanate to participate in this global event.

Effective Participation

The Sultanate participated in Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition 2019 held at Ahmedabad with a delegation led by H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development “Ithraa”, along with a number of the concerned authorities from the public and private sectors, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, SEZAD, the State General Reserve Fund, Oman Oil Company, Port of Duqm Company, Duqm Quarries Company, Iskan Oman, Khimji Ramdas and Oman Porcelain Company.

During its participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition, Ithraa sought to attract more investments to the Sultanate.

Bilateral Investment Opportunities

The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition focused on opportunities for bi-

lateral investment between India and other countries. In his speech at the opening of the conference, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi affirmed the India's growth over the last four years, referring to the economic measures taken by his country to accelerate economic growth, stimulate investment, reduce inflation and reduce the cost of carrying out business. He added that “India is now ready for business as never before”.

The Prime Minister highlighted that “that India has moved up Global Ranking of World Bank's Doing Business Report by 65 places but are still not satisfied. We seek to make India among the top 50 next year”.

Economic Revitalization

At the closing of the Summit, Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of the Republic of India, emphasized the role played by the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition in economic revitalization, referring to a number of economic indicators that confirm the growth of the Indian economy.

The conference witnessed many speeches that hailed the importance of the biennial Summit in making economic partnerships between India and other countries.

Narendra Modi said that “India is now ready for business as never before”

Omani participation aimed to attract more investments to the Sultanate



Venkaiah Naidu delivers his speech at the closing of the Summit

Indian Prime Minister meets with Representatives of the Participating Parties

Sultanate's Pavilion Gujarat Exhibition Witnesses Presence of Large Number of Business-men

Highlighting the Investment Elements of the Sultanate and Inviting the Business-men to Know about the Advantages of Investment

(Ithraa) focuses on the facilities provided for the conduct of economic business in the Sultanate

SEZAD Highlighting on the investment opportunities available in Duqm



Modi during his visit to the Sultanate's Pavilion

Ahmedabad (India) - :

The Sultanate's pavilion at the Gujarat Exhibition witnessed a large presence of Indian companies and businessmen interested in investment. Representatives of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development "Ithraa" presented to visitors of the Exhibition an explanation of the Sultanate's investment elements and the measures taken by the Sultanate to facilitate economic activities.

In addition, the representatives of SEZAD provided an explanation of the advantages of the SEZD and its geographical location and available investment opportunities.

Duqm Quarries Company reviewed the existing minerals in Duqm and its economic importance and the industries that based on them. Port of Duqm Company explained the importance of the port on the international shipping lines.

The representatives of the government bodies participating in the Exhibition called upon the Indian companies and businessmen to visit the Sultanate to explore the available investment opportunities.

During the opening of the Exhibition, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sultanate's pavilion and met with representatives of government bodies involved.

The Exhibition, which was held on January 17 to 22, 2019, was attended by a



Visitors visit the Sultanate's Pavilion



A commemorative picture of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ithraa and the government bodies participating in the Exhibition

wide international participation. The Vibrant Gujarat Exhibition is one of the main exhibitions of the Republic of India and is held every two years.

The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition was a good opportunity to know

about investment opportunities in the participating countries and the Indian states. Participants were also able to present their brands, meet with businessmen and participating companies and discuss opportunities for joint cooperation.


(Duqm quarries) highlight the economic importance of minerals available in the zone

Port of Duqm Company explains the importance of the geographical location of the port on international shipping lines



Two visitors watch a film about Duqm quarries

The Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Gujarat receives the Omani delegation **Emphasizing the importance of economic relations between the two countries and striving to develop them**

Ahmedabad (India) - 

On January 20, 2018, H.E. Nitin Patel, Vice-President of the Government of Gujarat, received H.E. Yahya bin Said Al- Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development "Ithraa", and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEZAD as part of the Sultanate's participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and Exhibition.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Omani delegation participating in the Summit, they stressed the importance of the economic relations between the Sultanate and India and the efforts exerted by both countries to develop them to serve the common objectives.

During the meeting, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al- Jabri made a presentation on the investment climate in the Sultanate. He



Meeting with the Vice-President of the Government of Gujarat

referred to the legislations that regulate the investment and the incentives provided by the Sultanate to investors. He stressed that the Sultanate enjoys many investment advantages.

For his part, H.E. Nitin Patel said that there are many opportunities that Omani companies and Indian companies should use to enhance the economic relations between the two countries, pointing out in this regard the successful investment partnerships between investors of the Sultanate and India.

"Invest in Oman" highlights investment opportunities in the Sultanate

Ahmed Al-Dheeb:
Sultanate's investment in infrastructure enhances private sector participation in economic growth

Omani companies eligible to do business in India and international competition



Ahmed bin Hassan Al-Dheeb speech

Ahmedabad (India) - :

The Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa) organized a specialized seminar on investment in the Sultanate as part of its participation in Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show.

H.E. Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al-Dheeb, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said that there are many opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation between the Sultanate and India, adding that investing these opportunities will contribute to further economic growth in both countries.

In a statement delivered during the seminar held on 19 January 2019, he indicated that the

economic relations between the Sultanate and India are growing year by year. Bilateral trade in the fiscal year 2017-2018 increased by 69% to reach 6.7 billion dollars compared to 4 billion dollars in the financial year 2016-2017.

Potentials of Omani companies

Al-Dheeb noted the potential of the Omani companies and their ability for international competition. "Their potential enables them to do business in India and thus contribute to the Indian economic growth. They can also work in various economic sectors, such as energy, industry, food, tourism, mining and fisheries, and other sectors," said Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.





He pointed out that the Sultanate has worked during the blessed Renaissance years to implement many infrastructure projects in the sectors of transport, logistics, ports, telecommunications and energy, stressing that this investment enhances the participation of the private sector in economic growth.

Concluding of his statement, H.E. Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al-Dheeb called on the representatives of Indian companies to learn about the investment opportunities available in the Sultanate, whether in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), industrial estates, free zones or in other economic sectors.

Presentations

The seminar held under the theme "Invest in Oman" witnessed various presentations from Ithraa, the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), Port of Duqm Company and Oman Oil Company (OOC), during which they

highlighted the investment elements in Oman and the incentives and facilities offered to investors.

Enhanced investor knowledge

The seminar was part of Ithraa efforts to enhance Indian investors' knowledge of the country's most promising economic sectors and investment opportunities.

"We are fully aware that great efforts are needed to promote the Sultanate as an attractive environment that attracts investment from around the world," said Nasima bint Yahya Zirouq Al-Balushi, Director General for Export Development and Acting Director General of Investment Promotion at Ithraa. "Ithraa is participating in events and initiatives that contribute to attracting investments to the Sultanate and working to strengthen the business relationship with various international markets including the Indian market."

Nasima Al Balushi:
Working to strengthen trade relationship with various international markets

Population	4.6 Mn (2017)
GDP	OMR 27.2Bn (2017)
GDP per capita	OMR 5,773.2 (2017)
FDI	

Faisal Al Hinai presents a presentation about Ithraa

Yahya Al-Jabri discusses the enforcing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Adani Group



Establishing an official and flexible framework for investment cooperation and studying the implementation of industrial projects in Duqm

Karan Adani said that "We look forward to investing in Duqm and appreciate the facilities provided by the SEZAD".

Gujarat (India) -

H.E. Yahya bin Said al- Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEZAD discussed the enforcement of the MOU signed by Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm "Tatweer" and ADANI PORTS AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE LIMITED in 2017.

This came during his H.E. visit to the company's site at the Mundra Port, located on the coast of the state of Gujarat India. ADANI PORTS AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE LIMITED "APSEZ", is the largest port company in India. It manages Mundra Port, India's largest container terminal with 24 berths, and operates in a number of infrastructure and industrial sectors.

Investment Cooperation

The MOU provides for an official and flexible framework for investment cooperation

between the two parties and the study of the implementation of a number of important projects in SEZAD in mining, energy and cement industries sectors.

H.E. Yahya bin Said al- Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEZAD stressed the economic advantages of the Sultanate, pointing to the presence of a number of free and industrial zones in addition to the economic zone of Duqm, which all provide promising opportunities for investors of the Republic of India.

During the meeting, H.E. also discussed the role played by the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development "Ithraa" in the Sultanate and its investment potential, stressing that the experience enjoyed by Ithraa helps investors to manage their investments in the Sultanate.

For his part, Karan Adani, CEO of Adani Group, stressed the Group's interest in investing in the Sultanate, especially in the SEZD, appreciating the facilities provided by the Authority to investors.



Mundra of Port - India's largest container terminal



A number of Their Excellencies Ambassadors follow the presentations

The promotion campaign in Delhi calls on Indian companies to explore investment opportunities in Duqm

New Delhi - :

The promotional campaign for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), held in the Indian Capital New Delhi, has invited businessmen and Indian companies to invest in the Sultanate.

During the campaign, which was held on 22 and 23 January 2019, a specialized seminar was held under the title "Invest in Duqm", and meetings were held with a number of Indian companies.

HE Shri C R Chaudhary, Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, expressed his country's interest in boosting economic relations between the Sultanate and India, referring to the trade exchange between the two countries and the Indian investments in the Sultanate.

Speaking at the opening session of the "Invest in Duqm" seminar held in New Delhi, he expressed the hope that the promotion campaign will result in more economic partnerships between the two countries.

Increasing Joint Investment

H.E. Yahya bin Said al- Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEZAD, expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the competent authorities in the Sultanate and India to increase joint investments and improve economic relations between the two countries.

In a speech delivered by H.E. at the seminar, he said that this gathering is a real opportunity to explore the advantages of investment in SEZD. He stressed that these meetings shed more light on the investment opportunities in Duqm. He also



Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry delivers his speech

pointed out that the establishment of SEZD came in order to strengthen the efforts exerted by the Sultanate to diversify sources of income away from oil, to encourage the local and foreign private sector to invest in the region, and to achieve balanced social and economic development, stressing that the region offers diverse opportunities for investment in various economic sectors.

In addition, he referred to the relations between the Sultanate and India, pointing out that the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Sultanate in 2018, confirms the strength of political and economic relations between the two countries.

Furthermore, H.E. reviewed in his speech, the Sultanate's efforts in eco-

Presentations about the possibilities of the region... and holding bilateral meetings with Indian companies

Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry confirmed India's interest in boosting economic relations with the Sultanate

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) said that, "Duqm offers various opportunities for local and foreign private sector investments"

"We are working to achieve balanced social and economic development"

Sultanate's Ambassador to India said that, "The promotional campaign reflects the common desire to promote economic relations between the two countries"



Yahya Al- Jabri delivers his speech



Sultanate's Ambassador to India, delivers his speech

economic diversification, investment in the infrastructure sector and encouraging the private sector, stressing that the Sultanate has many encouraging investment elements.

Common Desire for Cooperation

For his part, Sheikh Hamad bin Saif al-Rawahi, Sultanate's Ambassador to the Republic of India, said that the Sultanate and India have enjoyed special trade and strategic relations for a very long time, pointing out that the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Sultanate in February 2018 strengthened these relations. He added that this seminar reflects the common desire to strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

In H.E. speech, he urged Indian companies and businessmen to explore the investment opportunities in Duqm and the advantages that the region offers investors. He also praised the political stability enjoyed by the Sultanate and its politi-

cal relations with various countries of the world and the trade agreements signed by the Sultanate with many countries, which provide the goods produced in the Sultanate with good access to international markets as well as the strategic location of the Sultanate in the Arabian Sea open to the Indian Ocean.

Diversification of Investments

The two-day campaign comes as SEZAD is seeking to diversify investments in the region. During the seminar held on January 22, 2019, presentations were made by the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development "Ithraa", SEZAD, Port of Duqm Company, Oman Dry Dock Company and Oman Oil Company (OOC) as they reviewed the potential of the region and the investment opportunities available in Duqm. A number of bilateral meetings were held between the presenters and representatives of the Indian companies.



Duqm

inaugurates
heavy
industries
era

Duqm -  :

Duqm has entered the era of heavy industries with the start of the construction works in Duqm Refinery and integrated power and water plant, and start of production of the Sebascic Oman Refinery and the completion of more than 80% of the oil berth in Duqm Port along with the significant progress in the other port packages.

The heavy industries zone accounts for 55.7% of the total area allocated for industrial investment in Duqm with a total area of 207.3 square kilometers.

The allocation of this large area aims to attract quality heavy industry projects, such as refineries, petrochemical industries, cement industries and other projects that will be the cornerstone of the growth of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

Currently, the heavy industries zone includes a number of projects, notably Duqm Refinery and the integrated power and water plant whose construction started in the first quarter of this year. It also houses Sebascic Acid Production Plant, which entered the production stage in the first quarter of this year, Shomookh Complex, which signed agreements to establish 9 diversified investment factories, the Sino-Omani Industrial City in Duqm and a number of other projects.

In addition to these plots, SEZAD has allocated 55.2 square kilometers for medium industries, about 24 square kilometers for light industry, 7.5 square kilometers for fish industries and 5 square kilometers for renewable energy projects.

**115.5 Sq. Km for
investment heavy
industries sector
in Duqm**






An Investment Joint Venture (JV) between Investors from the Sultanate of Oman and India

PRODUCTION OF SEBACIC OMAN REFINERY KICKS OFF



Duqm -  :

February 2019 SEBACIC Oman Refinery for the production of Sebacic acid has entered the production stage after the successful completion of the preliminary tests during the fourth quarter of 2018. The refinery is the first industrial project in the heavy industries zone to operate in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), asserted that the operation of SEBACIC Refinery would prepare Duqm to enter the era of heavy industries and pointed out that SEZAD encourages Omani and foreign investors to invest in the heavy industries sector as one of the important economic mainstays.

"We are delighted that this project has started production and we look forward to seeing more projects in the heavy industry zone in the coming years, which witnesses the launch of construction works of the Duqm Refinery as well. SEZD is well poised to support the success of investment in this sector," Al-Balushi said in a press statement following his field visit to the refinery.



Khaled Al-Meawali in a commemorative photo at the SEBACIC HQ building. In the background, a picture of His Majesty the Sultan Qaboos was formed in a workshop that was set up during the construction phase.

The refinery is the first of its kind in the Middle East for the production of Sebacic acid extracted from castor oil and used in many chemical, plastics and pharmaceutical industries as well as a feedstock in the manufacture of disinfectants, paints and perfumes. This product of high economic value encourages the establishment of other industries.

SEBACIC Oman Refinery is a joint venture between investors from the Sultanate and India. The cost of the first phase of the project is OMR 24 million and SEBACIC Oman will implement the remaining phases of the project in the coming years.

For his part, Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al-Ma'wali, the project partner, expressed his happiness for the commencement of actual production of SEBACIC Oman Refinery and indicated that it represents an outstand-



The final product while being packed

ing addition to the renewable chemical industries in SEZD. "This will pave the way in the future for advanced technological industries that enter into many industrial fields," said Al-Ma'wali.

"We are proud to have been able to complete the project and reach the

The Refinery is considered the first industrial project in the field of heavy industries to be operated in Duqm

Dr. Ismail AL-Baloushi: Operation of Sebacic Oman Refinery prepares Duqm to enter the era of heavy industries



Khaled Al-Meawali: The project paves the way for high tech industries to be utilized in many industrial fields

Misbah Qutb
An Egyptian writer specialized in
economic affairs
mesbahkotb@gmail.com



Natural Gas and a Three-dimensional Relationship with Heavy Industry

The development of the field of exploration, production and development of natural gas fields, liquefaction and export of gas, and the development of its domestic uses in the past quarter century in a number of Arab countries including the Sultanate of Oman, paying great attention to the natural gas industry and its associated matters.

First of all, gas production itself is a heavy industry, requiring advanced expertise, modern equipment and high skills. This industry is becoming increasingly complex, especially if research and production are carried out in and from deep-water fields. It is evident that there is a few number of global countries, easy to be determined, does this, and there is a country of great global standing, such as Russia, does not have deep water drilling and production companies, even if there are Russian companies have shares in certain companies carrying the nationalities of other countries, such as Italian company Eni.. It is true that the latter case did not result from a technological deficit, but, as mentioned by a Russian official at once, it was basically due to Russia has vast tracts of land in Siberia and elsewhere that have not been searched and explored yet, despite they are promising, that is why Russia focuses on production technologies of the ground-based fields.

Gas is also one of the most important inputs to heavy industries in the sense of a dense knowledge or technology and producing a high added value such as petrochemicals, fertilizers and various chemicals. It is also an important fuel for other heavy industries such as iron, steel, aluminum and refractories, but also for the refining industry itself, the hydrogen cracker industry for the production of light fuel, with higher value added, and of course its other uses.

Earlier, the economist and former Egyptian minister, Dr. Jawad Abdul Khaliq, said that the availability of raw materials alone is not enough to create an industry in general. It is necessary to have a clear and deliberate industrial policy in which there is a specific component for the extractive industries. The gas should be used in the production of basic chemicals, and some of its revenues should be spent on research in the field of new and renewable energies.

It may be important to have a national observatory to monitor and analyze developments in the various areas of gas use, including industrial, commercial, domestic, etc. and compare the cost and the revenue in each area, and the alternatives that can be used when consumption in a given field has become a low-cost economic burden with the opportunity cost criterion. It must indicate how gas, or part of it, can be channeled to other aspects. The main uses of gas, as known, include the above-mentioned industries, electricity production, water desalination, in cars as alternative fuels for gasoline, or through dual cycle (gas / gasoline) and in the houses.

The average citizen's share of the gas consumed annu-

ally is one of the criteria for the progress of countries now. Dr. Rushdi Said, who died with desperate because of the low share of Arab citizens, has warned of this fact for years. Before his death, he launched the statement "Arab must drink their gas", which is similar to the statement "Arabs should drink their oil as Europe ate their coal" which in both cases mean doubling domestic consumption of energy, especially in support of industrialization, overall development, economic and social progress, rather than exporting raw materials.

In total, in line with the above, it is important to continuously increase the share of industry in national product as well as to increase investments in the industrial sector as a proportion of total investments. The contribution of the Omani industrial sector is about 15% of the gross product, which still needs a lot of promotion. The availability of natural gas and the accumulation of its reserves in the Sultanate will support this shift towards a more industrial contribution to product.

Oman aims, according to the vision 2020, to reduce the contribution of oil and gas to domestic product by 2020, and the indicators show a remarkable success in this area.

Duqm Refinery Project (a joint venture of Oman Oil Company (OOC) and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) in the SEZD), which will produce diesel and aviation fuel, jet fuel and liquefied petroleum gas. However, Medhat Youssef, the well-known Chemist who is a specialist in the refining (headed the Egyptian "MIDOR" Laboratory, a third-generation lab) always cautions that the forward and backward linkages of the refining industry should be maximized so that the plants can avoid shocks when there is difference between crude prices and the final output from the plants becomes narrow making some products unprofitable. It is frequently repeated in economic cycles. Flexibility is therefore required and the proper installation of products and rapid focus on a product at the expense of another market development is important.

The history of the extraction and use of gas (which began in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century commercially and industrially) shows that gas and its associated industry and consumption are open to other possibilities in the future. It is largely immune to the threat of downward trend in new, renewable or clean energy prices for at least three upcoming decades. It is almost as clean, and also the provision of a calm political, social and economic environment to maximize the benefits of gas and oil is a major advantage in any country involved in oil and gas production and export because the ongoing global conflicts are centered, as we see in a big part of them, on the energy and the fossil fuels are still in the priority, and it can be confirmed that the Sultanate of Oman has a lot of this environment and it is witnessed by everyone.

A vital project on 45 hectares

Signing five agreements for the establishment of the Duqm Integrated Power and Water Plant



During the Signing ceremony of the usufruct agreements

SEZAD grants the new company usufruct of land for 25 years

Signing a long term service agreement with Siemens for maintenance of turbo engines

Awarding EPC contract of plant to a consortium of international companies

Muscat - :

Duqm Power Company (DPC) the joint venture between the Centralized Utilities Company (Marafiq) and Gulf Pacific Holdings (Thailand) (45% partner), has signed five agreements for the construction of the Duqm Integrated Power and Water Project (DIPWP).

The ceremony, which was held in January 2019, included the signing of the land usufruct agreement for a period of 25 years for the construction of an integrated power and water plant in the Economic Zone at Duqm. The agreement was signed on behalf of SEZAD by HE Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board and by Al Duqm Power Company (DPC) Eng. Essam Bin Saud Al Zadjali, CEO of Oman Oil Company.

Eng. Sultan bin Hamad Al Bartmani, acting CEO of Oman Gas Company, and Eng. Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Hashmi, General Manager of (Marafiq) signed a long-term service agreement with Germany Siemens for 25 years to maintain the industrial turbines, steam turbines and control systems plant.

Engineering, Supply and Construction

DPC have entered into a Lump Sum Turnkey agreement for DIPWP with an International Con-

sortium comprising Alghanim International General Trading & Contracting Company W.L.L (Kuwait); Cobra / Tedagua (Spain) and Sojitz Corporation (Japan) who are recognized as leading EPC contractors in the Power and Water Industry.

Separately DPC has entered into agreements for the RMT package with Zawawi Powertech; a leading Omani transmission contractor with extensive experience in similar projects for the EPC works, and with Mott Macdonald Oman for PMC services.

Abdullah Al Hashimi, Project Director of Marafiq, commented: "I am delighted to announce this significant milestone achievement for all the parties involved, the thanks go to our shareholders, employees, stakeholders and authorities who support us all the way since inception and at different stages, to help reach our vision of becoming a Utilities provider of choice..

As the Power and Water pillar of Oman Oil group; Marafiq is committed to developing and operating state of the art facilities, and providing reliable, cost effective solutions to industrial customers utility needs in the SEZAD.

A vital project

The Usufruct agreement with SEZAD covers some 45 Ha of land split into 3 main plots for the DIPWP project; Seawater Intake and Outfall



During signing the contract of engineering and supply and construction of the station



under DPC, and Space for future expansion of Power and Water Facilities by Marafiq. The land is located adjacent to the massive Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical complex, in the heavy industrial zone.

The ingredients of the project

The world class DIPWP Package scope includes the design, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, completion and handover for operation of a new fully integrated NG fired 326MW installed capacity CCGT Power Generation plant; 36,000m³/day SWRO Desalination plant, with associated Seawater Intake/ Outfall and Support facilities for the complex. Associated to DIPWP is an 80KM 132Kv OHL Transmission system and 132kv/33kv Substation complex to connect with Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO) at Ras Markaz. (RMT Package)

Investment cost

The DIPWP project is valued at some \$450Million and duration is 46 Months from NTP; work will be carried out at Contractor offices in Europe, Ku-

wait and Oman. The plant is scheduled for early operation in Q3 2020 and full Commercial Operation in 2022.

Providing integrated central services

"The project was initiated to support Oman Oil Company's investments in the strategic location of Duqm and to act as a centralized utilities provider for our future projects and for the zone whilst contribute for Duqm Special Economic Zone developments and creating jobs and economy" said Eng. Isam bin Saud Al Zadjali, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Oil Company.

Sultan Al Burtmani, Acting Executive Managing Director of Oman Gas Midstream Business group ; The midstream pillar of Oman Oil Company business which includes Power and Water, added: "The project is one of its kind based on a centralized utilities business model and by being an independent outsourced utilities provider to Duqm Refinery, a major cornerstone project in the zone. This project will definitely add value to our Infrastructure portfolios and form an integral part of the OOC pillars".



Signing two agreements to establish a high voltage line from the plant to Ras Markaz

The project supports OOC's vision to develop traditional and renewable power generation facilities in Oman

Commissioning of plant begins in Q3 2020 with an investment cost of USD 480 million

Siemens: Duqm Project is one of our largest projects in Oman

Muscat -

"We received an order to supply the Duqm Integrated Power and Water project (DIPWP) with gas and steam turbines, long-term power generation services and digital solutions and it is one of its largest projects in the Sultanate and is one of the longest winning contracts in the oil and gas sector internationally" Siemens said.

The total order volume of the contract is in the range of 200 million euros, and under the agreement, Siemens is committed to providing maintenance services for this project for more than 25 years.

The Siemens scope of supply includes a combined cycle power plant consisting of five SGT-800 industrial gas turbines, five SST-300 industrial steam turbines, and the corresponding control system. Additionally, the project scope includes Siemens' cybersecurity solutions to improve asset visibility, reliability and security, while decreasing operation and maintenance costs.

"This is the biggest order ever Siemens achieved in Oman for medium-size gas turbines and the first one in Oman for our SGT-800." said Jean-Claude Nasr, Senior Executive Vice President, Power Generation at Siemens in the Middle East and North Africa.



General Manager of Duqm Power Company in an interview with  :

Provide power and water needs of heavy industries

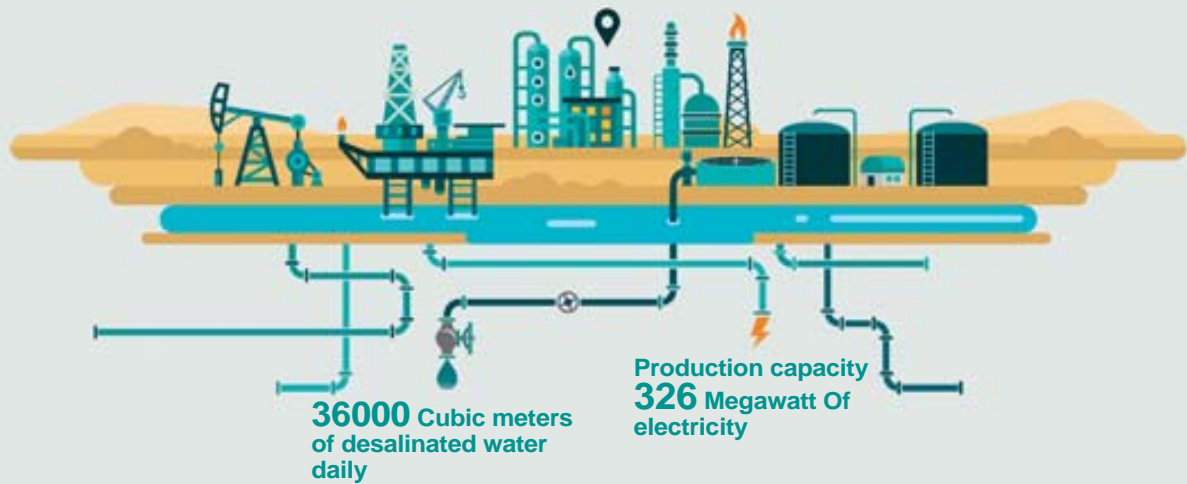
 Duqm -  :

Eng. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hashmi, General Manager of Duqm Power Company, affirmed the company's commitment to provide the needs of the heavy industry projects in terms of water and power. This would be in accordance with the laws and legislations regulating the electricity and water sector in the Sultanate and the agreement signed between the Central Utilities Company (Marafiq) and the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm in 2013. The agreement stipulates that Marafiq would provide the industrial facilities for the planned industrial projects in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) for renewable 25 years.

In an exclusive interview with Duqm Economist, he indicated that the establishment of Duqm Power Company was the result of the strategic cooperation between Marafiq and the Gulf Pacific Holdings Corporation, which is one of the largest power generation companies in Thailand.

Al Hashmi expressed his pleasure at signing the agreements for the establishment of the integrated power and water plant in Duqm: "We are pleased with this achievement, which is in line with the strategy of Oman Oil Company (OOC) in the energy infrastructure sector".

Info-graph of the capabilities and possibilities of the Duqm integrated power and water project



Providing refinery needs

"The company will provide power and water to the Refinery from the beginning of its operation. There is coordination with OOC to provide the power needs of its projects in Duqm. The components of the new plant also include the construction of a high-voltage line with a length of 80 km to supply Ras Markaz oil storage terminal with its needs of power," added General Manager of Duqm Power Company.

Components of new plant

He pointed out that the other components of the project include a power plant with a capacity of 326 MW, a desalination plant with a capacity of 36 thousand cubic meters of water per day, and seawater intake facilities for desalination and refrigeration. The design of the plant considered its capacity to accommodate SEZD needs of cooling and potable water.

License to produce potable water

He revealed that Marafiq obtained a license for the production and distribution of drinking water in SEZD during the current year. He expressed his appreciation to the Public Water Authority (PAW) for its confidence in Marafiq. He said that the company's supply of water in Duqm will contribute to SEZD growth and keeping abreast of the continuous demand for water by industrial, commercial, tourism, residential and other projects.



Committed to providing the needs of the OOC and Duqm Refinery

Licensed to produce and distribute drinking water in Duqm and appreciate PWA trust in Marafiq

Constructing an 80-km high-voltage line to supply Ras Markaz oil storage terminal with its power requirements





Illustration of the station

Construction of a power plant with a capacity of 326 MW and provision of 36 thousand cubic meters of water per day from the desalination plant

Provision of cooling water for industrial purposes, production of industrial water treatment

Company's services enable industrial projects to focus on the essence of their business and contribute to reducing costs

Plant product

Eng. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hashmi reviewed the products the new plant would provide. "The plant will provide cooling water for industrial purposes, industrial water treatment, drinking water supply and electric power. It will abide by the provisions of the electricity sector laws. The plant would also provide various other services within SEZD.

Many gains for investors

Eng. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hashmi said that the one-stop services provided Duqm Power Company will enable industrial projects to focus on its core work and thus will achieve savings in the operation and management of facilities and avoid duplication of investment in this area. This will add value to SEZD and help attract industrial investors to it. In addition, the coordination by the industrial projects with one party only to access these services will save them a lot of effort, time and money.

Operating and maintenance

On the operation and maintenance of Duqm Integrated Power and Water Plant, he said that there are many options available to the company, including the establishment of a specialized department within Marafiq and training and qualify its employ-



Part of the soil examination work

ees for that, using private companies with expertise in this field, or incorporation of a limited liability company. He pointed out that the company and Marafiq would review all these options in line with the policy of the two companies to achieve the best return possible from this project.



Construction works of Duqm Refinery kink off



Duqm -  :

Duqm Refinery project is witnessing a significant growth in the construction activities made by the three EPC contractors.

The overall progress of the work has almost reached 13% and this includes engineering, procurement and construction works comprising, excavation works, concrete pouring for foundations of buildings and the construction of piperack. A total of 4769 workers have been mobilized by all EPC contractors with 3275 at site to start the initial works of the construction.

EPC1 Temporary Construction Facilities installations continue at site. Civil and foundations works continue at site for civil packages and works continued on pipe rack foundations, tanks, pits and roads. Reinforced Concrete superstructure work, foundation works on buildings and excavations for underground piping is also ongoing.

Meanwhile, the progress in EPC 2 includes the buildup of the temporary site facilities including warehouse construction and completion of offices. Fencing also continues as well as excavations and foundation works for the main substation 490 and administration buildings.

The construction of EPC3 sub-package (C) work has started with general site clearing blasting and fill works to allow the start of foundations for tanks. Furthermore, excavation work has completed. In addition to that, 25 cabins and 10 office modules have been delivered and installed for the temporary

construction facilities.

Commenting on the progress of construction, Dr Salim Al Huthaili, CEO said “we are pleased to see the progress of work in our project and we aim to deliver it within the allocated time and budget. Once delivered, Duqm Refinery will contribute in boosting the Omani economy and will be a catalyst for growth in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm. It will also contribute to the emergence of other industries in the zone and will contribute in creating direct and indirect job opportunities for locals”.

The Project has worked a total of 3.7 million man-hours with zero time wasting fatalities or injuries incidents. Also, over 1000 safety inductions have been given and 10,000 job specific Safety employee Training sessions provided.

Duqm Refinery contractors for the three EPC packages includes:

EPC Package 1 (Process Units): Joint Venture of Técnicas Reunidas S.A. and Dae-woo Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd

EPC Package 2 (Utilities and Offsites): Joint Venture of Petrofac International Limited and Samsung Engineering Co Limited

EPC Package 3 (Offsite Facilities): Joint Venture of Saipem SpA and CB&I.

Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries LLC is a joint venture between Oman Oil Company and Kuwait International Oil Company.

By the completion of the Duqm Refinery project, its refining capacity will reach 230,000 barrels per day for various types of crude oil.

Preparing infrastructure and pouring the foundations of oil products storage facilities

The number of employees in the project is close to 4800

The project completes 3.7 million hours of work without fatalities or time-lost injuries



After the end of the drilling stage on land

Successful pumping of water to the oil berth at Port of Duqm



Establishment of two berths for ships and giant oil tankers

Duqm - :

Boskalis Westminster Oman Limited, the executing company of the oil quay wall project in Port of Duqm, celebrated the success of the stage of pumping water to the dock for the export of petroleum products on 23 January 2019 after the completion of the inspection process earlier. This is one of the basic stages of the completion of the quay wall for the export of petroleum products.

The project company chose to carry out deepening of the quay wall basin on land and then flood the basin with water. The project is one of the most important projects executed by Boskalis Westminster in terms of size. The

company has also built a giant cement wall of one kilometer and a height of 23 meters from the seabed to constitute the docking area of ships.

A number of officials from the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), Oman Company for Development of Special Economic Zone (Tatweer), Duqm Refinery, Port of Duqm, and representatives of the project and consulting companies, subcontractors and a team of engineers attended the ceremony.

Various possibilities

The two-kilometer-long oil quay wall is equipped with buoys and navigational aids along with two berths for ships and giant oil





tankers where two vessels can anchor at each berth at the same time.

At the same time, work is underway to complete the construction work of the oil quay wall after the completion of the stage of drilling on land, while drilling and deepening in the sea continues for the depth of the port basin to reach 18 meters. The total quantities of drilling required from the start of work in the project until completion is about 26 million cubic meters 5 million cubic meters of which used to reclaim and fill the site dedicated to the quay wall. According to the agreement, signed by the SEZAD with Boskalis Westminster Oman Limited, the company is committed to reclaiming about 2 km of the area adjacent to the 4.6 km sec-

ondary wave breaker.

Most important stage completed

Bart Brupper, Project Manager at Boskalis Westminster Oman Limited, stressed the importance of the project to the company and his delight in completing the most important stage. He asserted that the project is an important addition to the company's history.

"The works of the quay wall is in accordance with the plan and the progress exceeds 85% of the basic works," said Brupper in a press statement to Duqm Economist.

The oil quay wall is one of the largest projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) in terms of area and cost with about OMR 200 million.

Reclamation of 2.4 km adjacent to the secondary wave breaker

Bart Brupper: Oil quay wall project is an important addition to the history of the company





President of AIIB and his delegation are following the video presentations

Expressed his pleasure at the financing of the second package from Duqm Port

President of AIIB praises social and economic development in Duqm

Experience gained in Duqm can be a source of inspiration for other countries in the region

Duqm - :

Jin Liqun, President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), praised the economic and social development of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

"We believe this is a grand idea of promoting the development in Duqm which is so important not just for Oman but also for the rest of the region and the progress is very satisfactory. In a statement to Duqm Economist during his visit to the project on 17 February 2019. He stated, we in AIIB are very much honored and privileged to be involved in the development of Duqm port".

This is the first visit of H.E. Jin Liqun to SEZD after AIIB has financed the second package project of Duqm Port associated with the

implementation of the commercial berth inside the Port.

Under the agreement signed in 2017, the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) obtained the financing of US\$ 265 million which will be repaid on installments up to 25 years including five-year grace period. The finance has been availed at a competitive price and low finance fees compared to other financing agencies. The Sultanate is one of the leading countries that contributed to the China-based AIIB.

Constructive Talks

During his visit to the Sultanate between 12 and 15 2019 February, H.E. Jin Liqun held talks with a number of officials in the Sultanate, and met with H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, SEZAD Chairperson and Dr. Ismail

Proud of our relations with SEZAD and our talks were constructive



President of AIIB during his visit to the commercial berth



A commemorative photo in front of a building being constructed at the commercial berth

bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, SEZAD Acting CEO. During the meetings, he discussed the areas of cooperation and strengthening the existing relations between the two sides.

Jin Liguang described his talks with H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri as constructive and stated, "We had a very good meeting".

He expressed his pleasures with the level of progress of work in the second package of Duqm Port and indicated, "I can see here with my own eyes the progress and I believe very soon you will see a completely new landscape here and because this duqm port and special economic zone SEZAD is important for the sustainable development of Oman and I believe the experience you gain here could be probably inspirations for other countries in the region, so I wish you all the best".

Excellent relationships

He commended the level of existing relations between AIIB and SEZAD stating, "It's excellent, Oman is the first country in GCC for which we work directly and we are very much committed to promoting the broad based economic social development in GCC countries. Oman can serve as I think the starting point and I hope the projects we do here could be of

some demonstration reflect the success .

I'm happy to see the progress we have made. I like to ask you to convey my regards and best of wishes to all those working here and all those who support this project".

Construction of four terminals on the commercial berth

The second package to Duqm Port is the most important operational facilities for commercial berth. Upon completion, it will allow the commercial operation of the port. This package includes the establishment of four terminals on the commercial pier, including the two for containers of about 1,600 meters long to handle about 3.5 million TEUs annually. There will be a terminal for bulk materials with a capacity of about 5 million metric tons per year and multi-use terminal with a capacity of approximately 800 thousand metric tons per year. This phase will also include the construction of iron rails for cranes, paving container storage yards paving, buildings, electrical and mechanical workshops, and many other facilities.

The project cost is OMR 107.3 million and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.



President of AIIB in a group photo with the editor-in-chief

Second package of Duqm Port is the most important operational facilities for the commercial berth and the project completes by the end of 2019

Oman is the first GCC country to work directly with AIIB



INTEGRATION OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND SEAPORTS

Dr. Ayman Al-Nahrawi

Expert in Transport Economics,
International Trade and Logistics

Economic Adviser to the Arab
Sea Ports Federation

Doctorayman1@yahoo.com

Heavy industries are one of the most important pillars of the economic development on which many countries relied to build their economy and achieve their renaissance. There are many examples of these industries, notably iron and steel industry, which reflects the relationship between seaports and the functioning of heavy industries in terms of integration. Iron and steel products play a major role in most economic activities, including manufacturing, construction, transport, communications, machinery and equipment. This is evident in the global utilization of iron and steel worldwide in 2017, of about 1,587 million tons distributed as follows: 51% in construction and infrastructure, 12% in automotive and transportation industry, 11% in metal industries, and 15% in the mechanical equipment industry.

World leading countries

With the beginning of the 1990s, the status of China as a major producer of iron and steel was on the gradual rise to rank fourth in the world and then second by the mid-nineties. This trend continued until China became the world's leading iron producer by the end of the 1990s so far followed by Japan, India, the United States, Russia, South Korea, Germany, Brazil, Ukraine, Turkey, Belgium, South Africa, North Korea, Mexico and Australia. The iron and steel industry in the Arab world started in the mid-fifties with the establishment of the first steel and iron factory in Egypt, and several years later other Arab countries entered the iron and steel industry, such as Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, UAE and Oman.

Leading Arab countries

In the field of iron and steel production, Algeria ranks first among the Arab countries and 25 worldwide with 10.7 million tons annually, followed by Egypt, ranked 31 worldwide, with 5.5 million tons annually, Saudi Arabia, 35 globally, with 5.2 million tons annually. Syria is the fourth largest producer among the Arab countries with 3.7 million tons. In the fifth place comes the United Arab Emirates that produces about 3 million tons annually. In the sixth place comes Qatar with an annual

production of 2.6 million tons. In the seventh place comes the Sultanate with about 2 million tons per annum followed by Kuwait with 1.2 million tons, Tunisia, which produces about 530 thousand tons, while Morocco holds the tenth place and produces about 500 thousand tons, then Sudan with 128 thousand tons per year.

Iron Ore and Industry

Iron ore refers to the raw material that includes iron in an enough quantity to make it operationally and economically feasible for ironmaking. Iron ore and resources are available in large quantities worldwide though the iron and steel industry consumes large quantities thereof.

The basis of the iron and steel industry is the removal of excess quantities of carbon and unwanted impurities, with the addition of other materials required in specific quantities. The production of most world's iron and steel takes place through the operation and treatment of sponge iron by direct reduction with the use of coal or gas as the reduction agent while it is the coke is the agent in the blast furnace. The production of the different types of iron and steel according to the characteristics required for the different applications and the differentiation between the various depends on a number of characteristics, including density, flexibility, melting point, thermal conductivity, strength, and hardness.

Extraction and exportation of iron ore

The world's major iron ore producers are China, Australia, Brazil, India, Russia, Ukraine, United States, South Africa, Iran, Canada, Sudan, Venezuela, Kazakhstan and Mauritania. Many of these countries export iron ore to many world's countries that have iron and steel industries. Ships specialized in transporting bulk ore and mineral ores, called dry bulk carrier and dry bulk freighter, transport the same in large quantities. They transport shipments of dry bulk, such as cereal, coal and ores. The design and construction of these ships have developed over the past decades towards increasing their size and technological capabilities to be able to load the shipments with maximum safety, security and efficiency levels.

Dry bulk ships

Currently, bulk carriers constitute more than 40% of the world's merchant marine fleet, ranging from single-shaft to giant carriers capable of load-



ing more than 400,000 metric tons of static cargo. The models range from Handy Size with 10,000 to 35,000 dead weight (dwt), Handy Max with 35,000 and 59,000 dwt, Panamax with 60,000 and 80,000 dwt, and Capsize model with more than 80,000 dwt. Specialized dry bulk vessels transport grains, such as wheat, corn, barley, sugar and soybeans. They may also carry various kinds of metal ores such as iron ore, bauxite, coal and others.

The reception of such vessels in the seaports requires the availability of specialized navigational and operational facilities suitable for receiving them, such as appropriate depths of navigational channels, approach entrances to ports and depths in front of the berths. Add to this the availability of trading and handling bulk goods, such as conveyor belts, mechanized syphons, and grabs with high handling and production capacity, which must be consistent with the global rates in this regard. In this way, we can achieve the economies of operation, which ensure the appropriate levels of cost for crude traded and handling. On the other hand, we should note an important issue regarding the need for preservation of the environment from pollution that may result from trading, handling and storage of dry bulk goods, such as iron ore and coal. These can cause environmental pollution in the seaport area or in the adjacent area where iron and steel plants normally exist.

On the other hand, it is worth mentioning the importance of achieving integration between the field of heavy industries, such as the iron and steel industry and the field of seaports. This can take place through the development and improvement of infrastructure, means of transportation, connection between the seaport and the plant site and the use of appropriate means of transportation to achieve this, in particular railway, which is one of the best means of transport that achieves many operational and economic considerations. It can link the seaport and the location and activities of the heavy industry with regard to the transport of raw material from the dry bulk terminal at the seaport to the plant or the intermediate or final product from the plant to the seaport for export.

The world's top 10 steel producers in 2016

Rank	Country	Production (million tons)
1	China	808.4
2	Japan	104.8
3	India	95.6
4	United States of America	78.6
5	Russia	70.8
6	South Korea	68.6
7	Germany	42.1
8	Turkey	33.2
9	Brazil	31.3
10	Ukraine	24.2

World's largest steel companies

Company	Headquarters	Production in 2015 (million tons)
ArcelorMittal	Luxembourg	97.1
Hesteel Group	China	47.7
Nippon Steel	Japan	46.3
Posco	South Korea	42.0
Baosteel Group	China	34.9
Jiangsu Shagang Group	China	34.2
Ansteel Group	China	32.5
JFE Steel Corporation	Japan	29.8
Shougang	China	28.6
Tata Steel	India	26.3
Wuhan Iron	China	25.8
Shandong Iron	China	21.7
Hyundai Steel	South Korea	20.5
Nucor Corporation	United State	19.6
Maanshan Iron	China	18.8
ThyssenKrupp	Germany	17.3
Gerdau	Brazil	17.0
Bohai Steel	China	16.3
Novolipetsk Steel	Russia	16.0
Jianlong Steel	China	15.1

KIMS Duqm Complex expands its medical services



Interested in spreading health awareness in collaboration with local support groups

Duqm - الدقم :

Since its opening in September 2017, KIMS Duqm Complex has expanded its medical and therapeutic services to include patients from the local community and employees at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD). Recently, it has introduced a Gynecology Department.

The complex includes multidisciplinary clinics, such as general medicine, orthopedics, dentistry, internal medicine, outpatient, radiology, audiometry unit, ambulance and emergency services with four beds and pharmacy. The complex is equipped with a state-of-the-art laboratory and has introduced department of obstetrics and gynecology. The manage-





Maryam Saqleen: Adding Gynecology Department to meet the needs of the community

ment plans to provide more specialties to cope with the population growth and needs of the community in Duqm.

Gynecology Department

Duqm Economist visited the KIMS Duqm Complex and met with Dr. Maryam Saqleen, a gynecologist and obstetrician with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and a fellowship from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Obstetrics and

Gynecology. She is also a specialist in the care of pregnant women and gynecological diseases.

Dr. Saqleen stated that the management of KIMS Oman Hospital is always seeking to bring more specialties to its branch in Duqm. The addition of Gynecology and Obstetrics Department has come to meet the needs of the local community in the region for this type of specializations including medical pre-delivery care for women, high-risk care as well as comprehensive care during labor, postnatal care, treatment of menstrual disorders, emergency obstetric care, gynecology, day care, infertility, family planning and post-menopause.

Training and professionalism

"Our team has the highest standards of training and professionalism to meet the needs of patients. They are qualified to provide therapeutic services and medical care with efficiency. We are committed to delivering the required levels through excellence in health care at affordable prices and in a convenient healthy environment to all segments of the community in Duqm. Our medical staff is keen to obtain the satisfaction and comfort of the patient. We have a firm faith in our social responsibility by spreading health awareness through ongoing medical campaigns and outreach programs in collaboration with local support groups and our local corporate and individual partners," concluded Dr. Saqleen.



Committed to providing required levels of health care and treatment



The delegation during the visit to the Port of Duqm

Delegation of the Sixth National Defense Course visits SEZD

Duqm - :

On 12-13 February 2019, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) hosted the members of the Sixth National Defense Course as part of their annual program, which includes induction to a number of projects in the Sultanate.

The National Defense College is interested in strategic studies in the fields of security and defense in accordance with Royal Decree No. (2/2013) establishing the College.

Major General Salim bin Musallam bin Ali Qatan, College Commander, headed the delegation that included 36 participants in the national defense course.

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, SEZAD Acting Executive Chair, welcomed the visiting



Dr. Ismail Al-Balushi delivers his speech Attendance during the seminar on Duqm



General Manager of Planning and Engineering offers a presentation on projects


College focuses on strategic studies in security and defense



Attendance during the seminar

delegation, stressing that the Special Economic Zone un Duqm (SEZD) is one of the gains of the blessed renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who laid the foundation of the modern Oman.

In a speech at a seminar held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Duqm, Al-Balushi stated that the establishment of SEZD was part of the government's plans to distribute the fruits of development throughout the governorates and Wilayats of the Sultanate and promote sustainable development across the Sultanate.

Attracting investments

He reviewed SEZD components and the investment opportunities available therein. He said that SEZAD is working to attract domestic and foreign investments. In the early stages of its establishment, it has prepared legal and legislative frameworks that regulate its work and granting of incentives, benefits, and facilities to investors.

He praised the government's support for SEZD and said that the government was keen to provide various elements for its success. At the level of legislation, incentives and

privileges, the projects established in SEZD region have many incentives, such as tax exemptions, land usufruct for up to renewable 50 years, and other incentives, in addition to the one-stop shop (OSS) in SEZAD that provides many facilities for investors. He pointed out that the government's interest in SEZD has also extended to provide infrastructure that contributes to attracting projects, such as the establishment of Duqm Airport, which provided easy and smooth link between Duqm and Muscat Governorate and facilitated the transfer of investors and employees in SEZD, and citizens and tourists between Muscat and Duqm. The government also established the dry dock for ship repair, the multi-purpose Duqm Port, and Duqm Refinery. This is in addition to connecting SEZD to a modern network of dual and individual roads.

Presentations and visits

During the seminar, SEZAD, Duqm Port, Dry Dock, and Oman Oil Company provided presentations. The delegation also visited projects in SEZD, such as Duqm Port, Dry Dock, Sebastic Oman Refinery, Duqm Airport and Duqm Police Station.

Visual presentations and visits to the most prominent projects in SEZD



College delegation during visit to OSS

Integrated protection system for Duqm projects against flood risks



Two protection dams and three main canals for discharge of surface water

Final stages and completion before end of this year

Duqm - Saleh Al-Ma'amari

The project for protection of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) has reached its final stages and scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The project consists of two protection dams: one on Wadi Saay and the other on Wadi Jurf, in addition to a number of drainage canals. The cost of the project is about OMR 76,700,000.

Dr. Saif bin Said Al-Hinai, Projects Manager of Drainage and Dams, at the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD),

stated, "The implementation of this project aims at providing the maximum protection for the SEZD during the period of exceptional climatic conditions or against the effects of surface water. The project has reached its final stages and expected to be complete in the fourth quarter of this year."

Wadi Jurf Dam

The height of the Wadi Jurf dam is about 19.4 meters and extends for 1600 meters while its width at the base is about 100 meters and its thickness increases as it rises to reach 8 meters at the end. It lake has a stor-





age capacity of 32.8 million cubic meters of flood and wadi water.

Wadi Saay Dam

The Wadi Saay Dam is 16.4 meters high, 3,665 meters long and 100 meters wide. The dam accommodates about 17 million cubic meters of water in case of wadi surface runoff.

Al-Hinai told Duqm Economist that the protection dams hold wadi waters to a certain height inside the dam lake and then discharge them through box culverts and concrete outlet to canals safely to the sea. The design considered the natural flow of the canals and the accumulation of secondary canals of rainwater in order not to interfere with SEZD scheme.

Surface Water Drainage Canals

On the drainage canals of water, Al-Hinai stated, "As is well known, the construction of dams must be accompanied by drainage ca-

nals. We chose their locations carefully and designed the same to accommodate surface wadi runoff and flow from the outlets of dams and secondary wadis that flow into the main wadis below dam areas. We established three canals for the drainage of water: Wadi dangert Canal, Wadi Jurf Dam Canal and Wadi Saay Dam Canal.

Wadi Dangert Canal

"The Wadi Dangert Canal project was complete as a first package of surface water protection system in late 2016 with a length of 11 km and a width ranging from 40 meters at the top of the canal to 100 meters at the mouth of the canal on the sea. The project included a number of box culverts at the top of the canal and on the public road (Mahut - Duqm). The construction of the channel completed in record 14 months, resulting in financial savings of the project of about one million Omani Rials," added Al-Hinai.

**Dam lakes
store about
50 million
cubic me-
ters of water**

**Consid-
eration of
natural flow
of surface
water dis-
charge
canals**



Completion of Wadi dangert canals in a record time with financial savings of OMR one million

Protection dams hold Wadi waters to certain heights and discharge them safely into the sea



Jurf and Saay Canals

Jurf and Saay Canals project, implemented by the Turkish Serka Taahhut Insaat Company in partnership with Rajab and Aidi Earthmoving Company (RAECO), includes many details and engineering designs that reflect the appropriate environmental dimension to protect Duqm and its residents and secure the executed projects.

"Both canals have a joint outlet to the sea at the approximate location of the current wadi delta. We diverted the route of Jurf Canal slightly to follow the left bank of its natural course, which reduced the amount of deepening or drilling required hence the lower costs of establishing the canal. Saay Canal is at the southwest of the Saay area, where we implemented several entrances or estuaries

to the canal to absorb the greatest amount of water and provide the greatest protection to the Saay area and strategic projects down the wadi while preserving the nature of the place and taking into account the environmental aspects as much as possible. The length of Wadi Saay Canal is about 9 km and its width ranges between 160 meters at the top and 320 meters at the junction with Jurf Canal," elaborated Al-Hinai.

As for Jurf Canal, it flows from the west as a catchment for the waters of Wadi Jurf, Wadi Ashnan, and some other small wadis located west to SEZD. It then discharges the water into the sea. The length of the channel is about 12 km and its width ranges between 450 meters at the top and 750 meters at the estuary at the Arabian Sea Beach."

Overview of Project for Protection against Floods

Project Type	Project Name	Length (km)	Width (m)	Storage Capacity (one million cubic meter)	Contractor	Completion Percentage at the end of 2018	Cost (million OMR)
Dams	Jurf	1.6	100	32.2	First International Company	87%	27
	Saay	3.6	100	17			
Canal	Jurf	12	450-750	-	Turkish Serka Taahhut Insaat and Rajab and Aidi Earthmoving	76%	49.7
	Saay	9	160-320	-			

SMEs in the Limelight



AbdulAziz Al Hinai
Partnership and Development
Manager SEZAD

In line with the Special economic zone authority of Duqm's (SEZAD) overall mandate to improve the business environment of Duqm; develop its infrastructure / build its human resource capabilities to attract local and foreign direct investments; SME development has become a policy priority for SEZAD.

Well-known economies; as such has seen governments spend more time and effort in developing and supporting SME's which has resulted in up to 70% job creation and contributed up to 33% or a large portion of the GDP to the economy providing innovation, stimulating growth, generating employment and a balance flow of money across the country.

Oman is no different and with the establishment of the Authority responsible for Small and medium enterprises (Riyada) and with over 32,000 + SME's (2018 figures) now registered in Oman according to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

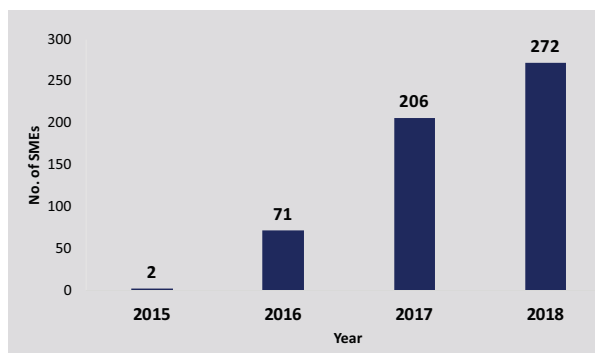
SME's today account for 90% of the corporate sector and currently contributing around 16% of Oman's GDP. As it is a key element of Oman's effort in the diversification process; more effort is being placed to continue to support these SME's and create an ecosystem that enables the small and medium enterprises to flourish.

A such Decision 32/2017 came into effect and the Partnership & Development Department (PDD) was established to create an enabling business environment with the necessary infrastructure for SMEs to grow and thrive.

Aligned to the department are a number of decisions that have given the department the opportunity to ensure this development (Decision 34/2017) by mandating the 10% of the value of all government contracts to be tendered to SME's giving all an equal opportunity to bid for contracts more specifically those SME's that have a Riyada card and are registered with SEZAD.

In addition, SEZAD made significant progress on the SME development front during 2018 evidenced by a number of major initiatives that were launched during the year as well as an increased flow of contracts and business opportunities assigned to SMEs.

SEZAD has come a long way; starting off with only two registered SMEs in 2015 which grew to 551 SMEs towards the end of last year and reporting 272 new SMEs registered alone in 2018.



Importantly, as part of SEZAD's strategic focus on enhancing in-country value (ICV) and aligning government mandate to allocate 10% of the value of works assigned by contractors to SMEs, SEZAD has also now put new measures in place to ensure that all its registered SMEs have access to tenders and subcontracting work undertaken by SEZAD as well as other public and private sector players within the Special Economic Zone.

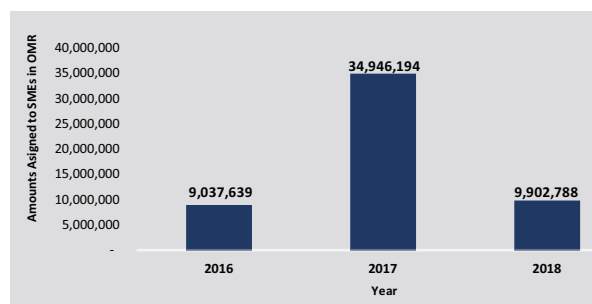
Throughout the second half of 2018, SEZAD worked closely with Business Gateways International, which has developed a successful 'Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS)' plat-

form, to create validation processes that were previously not in place in order to meet SEZAD's requirements. The new process allows SEZAD to ensure its contractors have a more streamlined process to tender to SMEs to get the maximum possible benefits its government contracts / business linkages with larger companies as well as access to a huge pool of local and international business opportunities, over and above the oil and gas sector in Oman; in an efficient and transparent manner.

Early in February 2019 the Sezad Sme E-tendering portal (JSRS) was launched which now serves to streamline the manual tendering process through a more transparent and efficient system with improved governance transparency and monitoring.

With the current system, PDD has also been able to prioritize some of the assigned jobs to the local communities ensuring a local stimulation of the local economy as well as the encouragement of further local SME's to set up thus creating further jobs.

Over the period from 2015 until 2018, a total of 15 contracts worth OMR 544.3 million were mobilized within the Special Economic Zone. The total value of works assigned to SMEs as part of those contracts amounted to OMR 53.9 million, or 9.9%* of the cumulative contract value which is in compliance with the 10% mandate. However, more amounts are expected to be channeled to SMEs starting 2019 onwards following the implementation of the new tendering procedures/ registration and licensing of SME's and the tighter monitoring of tenders and contracts assigned to SMEs through the JSRS portal.



Though the figures show a slowdown in the contribution to SME's, our expectation will see an increase of these figures with Duqm Refinery EPC packages now awarded and contractors slowly setting up in Duqm.

Duqm Refinery, a joint venture of Oman Oil Company (OOC) and Kuwait Petroleum now established within SEZAD is spurring ahead with its packages valued at over 6 Billion Dollars for the refinery and associated infrastructure. SME's will start seeing more and more tenders being floated through the JSRS portal which is expected to be in excess of 200 Million OMR's (10% of the value of the contract to execute the design and construction phase).

In our outlook for 2019, SEZAD will continue its strategic commitment to improve the business environment within the Special Economic Zone, boost ICV and support SMEs with more business development opportunities; establishment of Incubation / Innovation centers; allowing local SME's to thrive; giving priority to SMEs and locals from Al Wusta governorate.

Alignment to RIYADA and the establishment of an office within the HQ building of the special economic zone mid 2019 will also see a more robust relationship coordinating training and development programs to support these measures and ICV opportunities.

(SEZAD) Signs a (MOU) with Bank of Beirut to Provide Banking Options and Facilities to the Investors



During the signing of MOU

MoU seeks to encourage investment in Duqm and provide for special offers for SMEs

Bank of Beirut confirms its commitment to making reasonable efforts to provide banking services on preferential terms to investors referred to it by SEZAD

Muscat - :

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bank of Beirut in Oman to provide banking options and facilities to the investors willing to invest in Duqm Special Economic Zone.

On behalf of the authority, Dr. Ismail Bin Ahmed Al-Balushi, Acting CEO of Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority signed the Memorandum of Understanding while on behalf of Bank of Beirut, it was signed by Mr. Elie Nakouzi; the CEO of Bank.

The Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is part of the ongoing efforts exerted by Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority to help investors obtain the funding required to implement their projects in Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority. SEZAD has previously signed several memorandums of understanding with the commercial banks and their Islamic windows.

Through the signing of the memorandums of understanding with the local banks, SEZAD endeavors to attract investors to invest in Duqm Special Economic Zone.

Many facilities and services

By virtue of this memorandum of understand-

ing, the Bank of Beirut will provide many services to the investors such as the cooperate banking facilities, finance options of all kinds, advances, term loans, advances against credit instruments, advances against receivables, real estate loans, financial and investment consultancy services of all kinds, electronic banking services, provide special options for the management of the government accounts, opening financial credits in various countries of the world via the network of the corresponding banks, treasury and cash management services, insurance services via companies affiliated to the group of Bank of Beirut and the commercial credit guarantee.

Moreover, the bank will provide special options to the small and medium enterprises SMEs.

The memorandum of understanding which shall remain valid for three years stipulates upon the commitment of the Bank of Beirut to exert reasonable efforts to provide the banking services on d on favourable and preferential terms, at its sole discretion, to the investors referred thereto via SEZAD.

By the signing of this memorandum of understanding, the Bank of Beirut is looking forward to providing distinguished services to the investors in Duqm Special Economic Zone and encouraging investment in SEZAD.





The French delegation briefed on SEZD Master Plan model

A French business delegation briefed on the investment opportunities in Duqm

Duqm -  :

A French business delegation headed by Frédéric Sanchez, head of the French Projects Association "MEDEF INTERNATIONAL" visited the SEZD to brief on the projects being established in the region and the available investment opportunities.

The visit came after the success of the visits exchanged since the beginning of last year between the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) and French companies, which resulted in the establishment of an alliance of 5 major French companies to study investment opportunities available at Duqm.

Frédéric Sanchez, the head of the French Projects Association expressed his admiration for the projects witnessed by him in the SEZD pointing out that the aim of the visit to the region is to attract French companies to the Sultanate in general and to Duqm in particular.

He added that the meetings made with the officials of the SEZAD were successful. He added that the visit allowed us to be aware of the region and its investment advantages, referring to the joint meetings between the Omani and French sides. He pointed out that these meetings contribute to strengthening the economic relations between the two countries.

Opportunities & Possibilities

Frédéric Sanchez said that Duqm has many opportunities and possibilities that we can take part in its development. This is fantastic in the region where it has a clear vision of evolution and growth. It has various investment opportunities in



General Manager of Investor Services during presentation about Duqm

the oil and gas sector. We have about 20 French companies that can benefit from business opportunities in this sector and partnerships with Omani companies. He added that this visit enabled us to meet with a number of Omani institutions in Muscat and to explore the possibility of expanding the business in the Sultanate in general.

"In fact, the bilateral meetings were positive, and I think French investors will invest in the region," he concluded.

Briefing on the Possibilities of the Region

During the visit, the French business delegation toured the comprehensive area of the SEZD. It also visited the Oman Dry Dock Company, Port of Duqm, Duqm Refinery, Tourist Area and a number of other investment areas.

During the visit, presentations were made by the SEZAD, the Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development (Ithraa) - the Port of Duqm Company, the Oman Dry Dock Company, the Oman Oil Company and the Oman Wanfang LLC, which is developing the Omani industrial city in Duqm.



During the presentations

Frédéric Sanchez said, "We look forward to participate in the development of the region".

"I think French investors will invest in Duqm"

"Duqm has a clear vision of development and growth and has many opportunities and possibilities"

Colas joins French companies syndicate wishing to invest in Duqm



During signing ceremony of join Colas company to French companies syndicate

Syndicate focuses on dealing jointly with the business opportunities available in SEZD

Many fields available in Duqm for French companies' investments

Duqm -

Colas, the French company, has announced that it has joined a syndicate of four major French investors and technology providers who signed an agreement in November 2018 to deal jointly with business opportunities in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

On 4 February 2019, Colas signed a memorandum of understanding to join the syndicate established as part of efforts to strengthen the existing trade relations between the Sultanate and the French Republic.

The signing ceremony took place on board a French ship in Port of Duqm on the sidelines of a visit to Duqm by a French trade delegation of 21 figures from the public and private sectors headed by H.E. Renaud SALINS, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate.

Welcome and attention

During his meeting with the French delegation, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of

the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), welcomed the agreement reached by the five companies, stressing that SEZAD would work to overcome the challenges that may face. Al-Jabri asserted that SEZAD has various features that would contribute to the success of the French investments therein.

Perfect model

For his part, H.E. Renaud SALINS, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate, expressed his happiness at the visit of SEZD and the success of the establishment of the syndicate between five leading French groups. He also expressed his happiness with the increasing number of French companies in the Sultanate and the growing presence of French ships in Duqm.

His Excellency hailed the deep historical relations between the two countries noting that the Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic have developed and maintained their close relations, which span more than three centuries.





French delegation visit the SEZAD HQ

Yahya Al-Jabri: Duqm has advantages that contribute to the success of French investments

"We consider this syndicate an ideal model for what our companies can offer to the Sultanate in addition to good services and technologies. The syndicate embodies the depth of economic relations existing between the Sultanate and France," added SALINS.

During the visit, the delegation met with a number of officials from SEZAD and both sides reviewed the ways to attract French companies to invest in SEZD.

Evaluating investment potential

In addition to Colas, the syndicate includes four leading French companies: CMA CGM, EDF Renewables, FIVES and

SUEZ. The syndicate would assess the various investment potentials in SEZD in each of the fields of activity of these companies as well as the possibility of cooperation to achieve the highest value within the guidelines set by SEZAD and the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa). In particular, they shall focus on investment in cement industries and related facilities, such as transportation system facilities, solar power plant and alternative fuel production.

Colas operates in the fields of civil engineering and specializes in the construction of roads and railways.

Renaud SALINS: syndicate is an ideal model of economic relations between the two countries

Qatar Airways: operate a direct flight to Duqm this year



Muscat -

The company will be launching a direct flight from Doha to Duqm this year. said Akbar Al-Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways. During the press conference held in Muscat on 25 March 2019 on the occasion of the opening of the new office in Muscat.

Al-Baker said: Duqm will be one of 7 new stations in Qatar Airways plans to launch this year.

It is expected that the special economic zone will witness the construction work of the bus manufacturing project during this year, which is held with Omani-Qatari investments and aims to produce 1000 buses annually in the first phase.

That Qatar Airways is currently operating 70 weekly flights to the Sultanate through 7 daily services to Muscat, 2 daily flights to Salalah and one daily flight to Sohar. said Akbar Al-Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways.

Duqm Airport officially enters service



Dr. Ahmed Al-Futaisi: Airport is ready to receive international flights

Vital role expected for the airport in supporting economic sectors and enhancing freight movement

Mustafa Al-Hinaey: Duqm Airport is one of the pillars of civil aviation infrastructure in the Sultanate

Duqm -

On 14 January 2019, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) celebrated the official opening of Duqm Airport, one of the main components of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

In the ceremony held under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Homoud bin Faisal Al-Busaidi, Minister of Interior, the Minister of Transport and Communications, H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Futaisi, said that Duqm Airport would be a key supporter of the economic growth of Duqm. It links the region with the world and intrinsically links with Duqm Port.

He added that the airport would play a vital role in supporting the economic sectors in SEZD and enhance the movement of freight, whether air, sea or land, in addition to supporting investment and tourism sectors in Duqm. He noted that the design of the airport was to make it practical, to be a real addition to the system of airports in the Sultanate and to be an international airport ready to receive

international flights.

The airport, which cost OMR 90 million, has a total area of 27,386 square meters, of which 9,614 square meters are for the passenger terminal, which has an estimated capacity of half a million passengers per year, with the potential to expand to two million passengers a year. This is in addition to service facilities.

Promotion of SEZD internationally

Mr. Mustafa bin Mohammed Al-Hinaey, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Aviation Group, said, "The Group is working to promote SEZD through the existing air ports of Oman Air around the world and through international exhibitions in which the Group and its subsidiaries participate. Duqm Airport is one of the pillars of the infrastructure of the civil aviation sector in the Sultanate."

Omanization

Sheikh Ayman bin Ahmed Al-Hosni, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Airports, noted the Omanization percentage at Duqm Air-



Attendance official opening of Duqm Airport



Ayman Al-Hosni: We are working to attract international airlines to operate their flights to Duqm

port. "It is 100% with the people of Al-Wusta Region constituting 40% of the total employees at the airport," stated Al-Hosni.

He added that the company is currently working on its marketing plan to attract international airlines to run its flights through the Sultanate's airports, including Duqm Airport. "Oman Air is operating its daily flights between Muscat and Duqm except on Friday and there are requests from several companies to increase these flights," indicated Al-Hosni.

Al-Hosni praised the active role played by SEZAD to attract investors and projects to SEZD, which will enhance the movement of Duqm Airport both in terms of the number of passengers or air cargo capacity.

Air Freight

The capacity of the air cargo building is 25 thousand tons per year, with the possibility of expansion according to demand and need. Sheikh Ayman bin Ahmed Al-Hosni said that there is direct coordination between Duqm Airport and Duqm Port to carry out shipping operations, whether from the sea to the air or vice versa. It is expected that Duqm Airport will carry out these operations during the coming period.

Passenger Terminal

Duqm Airport Terminal has a ground

floor, two levels and a mezzanine providing services to meet the needs of the travelers in terms of restaurants, retail stores and other service facilities. The building also has two bridges connecting the passenger terminal with aircraft (jet bridges), five check-in counters, and electronic gates with sophisticated security system that facilitates departure procedures, and a belt to transport passengers' luggage for international and domestic flights.

The airport includes a navigation and meteorological complex, a 37-meter high observation tower and many other buildings.

Miscellaneous services

The airport has a 4 km runway with a 75 meter width with connecting corridors and aircraft parking spaces for four aircraft, including Airbus A380, as well as the implementation of a network of roads and channels to drain rainwater and provide potable water for airport facilities, sewage network, firefighting network, and other required facilities.

Welcoming performances

The ceremony included a number of artistic performances famous for Wilayat of Duqm in Al-Wusta Governorate and a number of international performances as well.



One of the artistic performance presented at the opening ceremony

100% Omanization and Al-Wusta people make up 40% of the total employees

OMR 90 million for the total cost of the airport

Duqm: The Legacy of Earth ... & Bridges to the Future a new book on Duqm history and economic fundamentals



Sultan Said bin Taimour during his visit to Duqm

Mariam Al-Bartamani:
Research facing difficulties in sources because of their scarcity, whether Omani or foreign

Wilayat history
dates back to the Stone Age

Muscat - :

The researcher Mariam bint Said Al-Bartamani published the book 'Duqm: The Legacy of Earth ... & Bridges to the Future' which is the first book of its kind dealing with the history of Duqm, its geography and importance in the modern era as a development and economic tributary.

The book, published in February 2019, is the second book by Mariam Al-Bartamani after her book *Al Al-Jalanda and their Role in the Omani History* issued in 2016. Mariam holds a master's degree in Omani history from Sultan Qaboos University.

In the last years, Duqm has received more interest from researchers, but the studies published on Duqm are still limited. Mariam indicated that the preparation of the book took 3 years of "research, passion, and inquiry." She tried to collect the scientific material from all existing sources and books written on Duqm, though few. She pointed out that the research has encountered difficulties in the sources, whether Omani or foreign, because of their scarcity and found only a few fragments of information mentioned by foreign travelers who visited the region.

Three chapters

The book consists of 242 pages divided equally between Arabic and English. The book consists of three chapters. The first deals with the natural and demographic characteristics of Wilayat Duqm, focusing on its geographical location, nat-



ural conditions and history. It provides an overview of the origin of its name and that of the villages and tribes of the Wilayat.

The second chapter deals with the old and modern economic activities and the service infrastructure in the Wilayat, such as health, education, transport, housing, electricity and water.

The third chapter entitled "Social Life in Duqm," discusses the Bedouin life, traditional industries, customs and traditions, and folklore in Duqm.



Rocks Garden is one of the most popular touristic attractions

History of Duqm

In her talk about the history of Wilayat Duqm, researcher Mariam bint Said Al-Bartamani said that its history dates back to the Stone Age.

The Stone Age is the prehistoric period in which man used stones to make his tools. According to Wikipedia, the Old Stone Age began with the appearance of man on Earth and continued until 10 thousand BC, while the Neolithic period started from 10 thousand BC to 4000 BC.

In the first chapter of the book, the researcher followed the human settlement in Duqm and indicated that the archaeological excavations carried out by the Swiss mission from the University of Basel in 2007 and 2008 revealed that human settlement in the Wilayat of Al-Wusta Governorate began since the Old Stone Age.

"The excavations revealed tombs dating to the Neolithic era in sites east of the Duqm in addition to the huge numbers of shell hills formed after the use of human material contained within, which indicates the existence of human settlement," added Al-Bartamani.

She indicated that the codification of the history of Wilayat Duqm began when the traveler Wilstead visited region in 1835 and described the maritime coasts and tribes on the coast, Al-Janbah, Al-Wihaibi and Al-Hikman. The reference to Duqm started to be more visible in the fifties of the twentieth century when Sultan Said bin Taimour visited Duqm and oil exploration companies in the region near Duqm.

The researcher then highlighted the increasing importance of Duqm in the modern era up to the establishment of the

Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) in October 2011.

Economic activities

In the second chapter of the book, the researcher reviewed the economic activities in Duqm, pointing to the existence of a number of old activities, such as fishing and camel breeding. She then moving to modern economic activities, notably economic and industrial activities that emerged after SEZD establishment. She noted the touristic importance of Duqm characterized by a variety of tourist elements. It has soft sandy beaches and mountain ranges overlooking the Arabian Sea, such as Ras Duqm and Ras Madrasah. Rocks Garden is one of the most attractive tourist sites.

In this chapter, Mariam Al-Bartamani touched upon the health, education, housing, and land and air transport services in Duqm, referring to the shift witnessed in the region by the opening of Duqm Airport.

Investment elements

The researcher noted the investment elements of SEZD and pointed out that SEZD acquires its importance from its strategic location on the Arabian Sea and outside the Gulf region, which contributes to being a distinct economic contributor to the national economy in the future. She stated that SEZD has sought since its inception to enact legislation and procedures that provide an encouraging investment environment. The author also highlighted the advantages of investment in SEZD and investment areas and available opportunities.

Codification of Duqm history began when Wilstead visited for the region

SEZD is eligible to be a distinctive economic contributor to the Sultanate

Human settlement in the Wilayat of Al-Wusta Governorate began since the Old Stone Age



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



***This is how Duqm
has been for
thousands of years:
mild climate,
refreshing
atmosphere and
breathtaking beauty.
However, the
re-discovery of this
beauty came only
when construction
began
in the zone.***

mohammed.alshezawi@duqm.gov.om

Inspired by Duqm

(1)

Many visitors to Duqm have found its beaches to be a haven and escape from the bustle of life, noise of factories, whirling of engines and roar of cars. The calm you find sitting on the beach makes you feel like you are in a dialogue with sea waves that come to you from another world, both remote and different. They narrate to you the tales, legends and dreams beyond this sea and the ocean that have wandered the seas of the world to form stories, novels and movies.

(2)

The Japanese TV (NHK) team, which visited Duqm in March 2019, indicated that Duqm beach alone would suffice to be a renewable economic resource. A member of that team told me: "If there was a direct flight from Dubai to Duqm, I would come to it every time I have a vacation. We do need such a beauty we found on the shore of Duqm and the cold breeze that gave our talk another beauty."

(3)

This is how Duqm has been for thousands of years: mild climate, refreshing atmosphere and breathtaking beauty. However, the re-discovery of this beauty came only when construction began in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) when thousands of workers came to establish an industrial and economic city but found that they can build a tourist city on the banks of this attractive beach.

(4)

The tourist attractions in Duqm are not limited to the climate, the sea, the beach and the rocks garden, but there is a nomadic environment on the other side of Duqm equally important, touristically speaking, to that of the sea. It also needs tourist attention from travel and tourism companies and holding tourism activities of a regional and international nature that would make Duqm a major destination in the region.

(5)

I hope the private sector take the initiative to carry out tourist marine activities taking advantage of the chances provided by the sea waves, the fish and marine life offered in local and international dishes in modern restaurants off the sea, and other advantages that the beach has to attract tourists from all over the world to Duqm.