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On the occasion of the blessed Renaissance

SEZAD presents its sincere congratulation to

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said

- May Allah protect him -

We supplicate to God Almighty to perpetuate for His Majesty health and wellness. We also congratulate the people of Oman on covenant and loyalty to continue giving and construction for the pride of all the people of our precious homeland.

23
July

الدقم

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



Creating a Stimulating Environment to serve the Investment Growth

The noble instructions of His Majesty; Sultan Qaboos bin Said, - May Allah Protect and Preserve him – while presiding over the Cabinet Meeting held in April 2019 to secure a favorable environment conducive to attract more local and foreign investments represent an affirmation of the policy adopted by the Sultanate of Oman to attract more investments that provide a new addition to the National Economy. Moreover, the enactment of the Foreign Capital Investment Law pursuant to Royal Decree No. (RD 50/2019) promulgated on the 1st of July 2019 AD reflects the Sultanate's new strategic orientation and permanent determination to enact newly updated and modernized legislations to cope with the overwhelming industrial changes and fulfil the aspirations of the investors.

In this context and within this framework, the strategy adopted by the Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm (SEZAD) pays heed to the lofty directives of His Majesty .. the Sultan of Oman - May Allah Protect and Preserve him – who has given firm and positive signals in various occasions for the need to create the most appropriate environment for investment growth in all parts of the Sultanate of Oman whether in form of local or foreign investments. On this basis, SEZAD focuses its concerns on the harmonization between the Local and foreign investments. The first half of the present year has seen various promotional efforts on both the local and international arenas inclusive of the inauguration of two external promotional campaigns; the first of which has taken place in India while the second one was running in Russia in an endeavor to put Duqm on the agenda of the investors, renowned businesses and big companies in these two countries.

The standing of Duqm as a main hub for investment in the Sultanate of Oman may, perhaps, be confirmed by the advancement of business presently witnessed in the zone. For example, there are currently construction project works in progress in Duqm Refinery, Marine Fishing Port, the commercial and oil piers currently under construction at Port of Duqm. In addition, the other infrastructure works denote the fact that notable considerable progress have been achieved as over 90% of the basic Infrastructure works presently carried out under SEZAD Current Plan reached the phase of completion.

If we move to the projects entrusted to the Private Sector Companies, we will come to recognize the commencement of the Commercial Production of SEBACIC Oman Refinery which is deemed as the first project of its type in Oman and its production is characterized by a High World Demand. The Month of June witnesses the commencement of the Construction Works of Little India Project which is one of the Investment project that aim at boosting and enriching the Tourism Sector in the Zone. We are also pleased to talk about Al Saad International School which is expected to come to light and start its first academic year as the first International School to be opened in the Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm, the matter that gives a definite indication of the private sector trust in Duqm Zone and its expectations that the zone shall witness more growth in the foreseeable future.

All indicators demonstrate that Duqm stands today on a solid ground and we expect that the period ahead will experience and mark a qualitative leap forward whether in terms of the numbers or the kinds of projects and the sectors it will work in or the number of the nationalities seeking to invest in this promising zone.



Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



The strategy adopted by the (SEZAD) pays heed to the lofty directives of His Majesty - May Allah Protect and Preserve him – who has given firm and positive signals in various occasions for the need to create the most appropriate environment for investment growth in all parts of the Sultanate

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الدقم
الاقتصادية
Duqm

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

**In this
issue:**



19

**Discusses strengthening
trade and investment relations with China**



25

**Preparation of an Environmental Strategy
for the Special Economic Zone of Duqm**



32

**Oman Drydock Company (ODC): Environmental Con-
servation comes at the Company's top priority**



- 12** His Majesty; the Sultan emphasizes the importance of preparing the appropriate climate to attract more investments



- 44** Commencing the Project Construction Works of "Little India"



- 37** SEZAD organizes a promotional campaign in Russia



- 48** Award integrated FEED for Petrochemicals complex in Duqm and Gas Extraction facility



- 46** Signing 6 Usufruct Contract Agreements of Lands Allocated for the Port of Duqm



- 50** SEZAD decides to increase the depth of the Fishing Port to be 10 Meters



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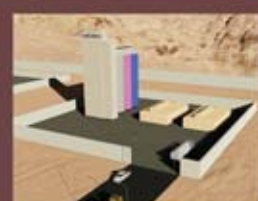
FERTILIZER FACTORY



ALUMINUM FACTORY



3D SHOT



PAINT FACTORY

We are committed to the development of the Economic Zone, effective management of infrastructure and attracting more investments



Our Goals:

- To ensure all of SEZAD development projects are efficiently management and executed.
- Manage various facilities within SEZ ensuring availabilities, operational

efficiencies and compliance to QHSE.

- To invest in business opportunities which are a Enablers for other investments and Profit generating.

Oman Company for the Development of Special Economic Zone at Al-Duqm SAOC (Tatweer Duqm) is a company affiliated to the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) fully owned thereby (100% Shareholding Ration). The Company was established in the year 2014 AD. and in charge of implementing all Zone Development Projects and Works entrusted thereto by SEZAD and asset management and is also considered the Investment Arm for SEZAD in Duqm.



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w w w . d u q m q u a r r i e s . o m

Free Industrial and Economic Zones Attract the Royal Attention

His Majesty; the Sultan emphasizes the importance of preparing the appropriate climate to attract more investments



His Majesty expresses his contentment on the comprehensive course of development encompassing all of the country

MUSCAT: ONA - Photography by: Mohamed Mustafa

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Bait Al Barakah on 30 April 2019.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks and praise to the Almighty God for the bounties which He has bestowed on Oman.

Creating a proper Investment Climate

Then, His Majesty reviewed a variety of issues. On the domestic front, His Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the progress made in the Sultanate's comprehensive development. While commending the rates of growth achieved so far, His Majesty reiterated the importance of providing a



His Majesty asserts the Sultanate firm keenness to be part of all efforts exerted to support dialogue and understanding between nations

His Majesty gives his kind instructions for the Sultanate organizations to develop all aspects related to the comprehensive development



suitable climate for attracting further investments, local as well as foreign, particularly in free zones, industrial estates and economic zones, noting that such investments should take into account the need to preserve the livelihood of Omani citizens.

Supporting Dialogue and Understanding

Upon his review of regional and international developments, His Majesty the Sultan underscored the "Sultanate's constant stance and continuous keenness on cooperation with efforts aimed to support dialogue and understanding

among countries to ensure security and stability of peoples."

Comprehensive Development

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan touched on a number of issues of concern to the country and citizens. He gave directives to all Institutions of the State to exert more efforts to enhance their roles in promoting the domestic development march so that it could realise its desired objectives. His Majesty wished all (parties and individuals) success in advancing the prosperity of Oman and its noble people.



His Majesty's directives are in SEZAD interest, care, and commitment

The Authority is keen to simplify the investment procedures for investors



Yahya bin Said Al Jabri

Muscat - :

His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri , Chairman of Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm paid tribute to the instructions of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - may God protect him – to the Council of Ministers to create the right climate to attract more domestic and foreign investments, especially in the free industrial and economic zones.

His Excellency said in a press interview that the directives of His Majesty delivered during his presidency of the cabinet meeting last week are the focus of attention, diligence and commitment of the Authority, stressing that the Authority is keen to simplify the investment procedures for investors from the Sultanate and abroad. He pointed out that the Authority's efforts in this area contributed

to increasing investments in the zone.

His Excellency emphasized also that the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm is working on putting the directives of His Majesty the Sultan in execution upon issuance, commending the high trust of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and his continuous follow-up to work progress of the zone.

Developing & establishment of a university city

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri announces that this month of May a contract for the development and establishment of a university city, including a private college, to teach the subjects relevant to projects now existing in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm was signed. H.E. also said that this year would witness the groundbreaking of the project which will be on an area of one million square meters.

The Authority's efforts increasing the investment in the region





Agreements signed in the first quarter of the year

His Excellency stated that the first quarter of this year witnessed the signing of 19 usufruct agreements with Omani and foreign investors, including a usufruct agreement concluded with Dhofar Fisheries and Food Industries Company SAOG for the purpose of establishing a factory for fish packaging and canning and fish oil production, in addition to a number of other projects covering industrial, tourism, commercial, and service sectors and residential commercial projects.

He explained that the total area of land that has been granted to investors since January 1, 2019 until the beginning of May is about 1.2 million square meters.

A variety of investing nationalities

His Excellency the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm praises the level of demand witnessed by the zone and said that there are around 20 investing nationalities in the zone from different countries around the world, hinting that the Authority also emphasizes the importance that Omani investors would strongly be present in the zone. For this purpose, a number of domestic seminars were held and toured various governorates of the Sultanate and met with businessmen and urged them to take advantage of the investment opportunities available in Duqm and the incentives and facilities provided by the Authority to investors. The meetings held by the Authority in the private sectors resulted in many Omani companies investing in Duqm, referring particularly to the attention paid to the small and average-size companies which enabled them to be awarded many work opportunities, whether

by the authority or the businesses already operating in the zone.

Results of Omani representatives participation in the belt and road forum

His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri speaks out the Omani participation in the belt and road forum held in the Chinese capital, Beijing, from 25 to 27 of April 2019. He added that the Sultanate delegation participating in the forum included officials from Ethraa and the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm and the State Reserve Fund and the Central Bank of Oman, pointing out that the talks with the Chinese counterparts highlighted the support of the Chinese Industrial Park project in Duqm and developing an action plan to complete the implementation of investment projects that Wanfang Company plans to executed in the park, with an estimated cost of about 10,7 billion US dollars. H.E. also adds that now the commercial and residential center is under construction in the park and some other projects will follow, most importantly establishment of a construction materials market. H.E. explains that during the forum a number of memorandums of understanding were signed to implement 3 new projects in fish and light industries.

H.E. stated that on the margin of the forum a meeting was held with H.E. Ning Jizhe, the vice president of the National Commission of Development and Reform in China. The practical development and cooperation between the two sides were discussed in the framework of the belt and road initiative. Also, they tackled the study of the possibility of opening a Chinese bank in the Sultanate and benefiting from providing services to the Chinese companies in the financial sector,

Signing a contract to develop and establish a university city on an area of one million square meters

19 agreements of usufruct were signed with Omani and foreign investors in the first quarter of this year

◆◆◆
The number of nationalities investing in the region rises to 20 nationalities

◆◆◆
Domestic investment is increasing. Small and medium enterprises benefit from the available jobs

◆◆◆
Studying the possibility of opening a Chinese bank in the Sultanate and benefiting from providing services in the financial sector of Chinese companies



and the financial cooperation between the Central Bank of Oman and Chinese banks, and ways of strengthening cooperation between the State Public Reserve Fund and the Chinese financial institutions.

H.E pointed out that the Sultanate's delegation also participated in the conference of businessmen, which is one of the main events witnessed by the forum. During the conference, the Chinese businessmen were invited to invest in the Sultanate.

Infrastructure projects

His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri reviewed the workflow in the infrastructure projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and said that the fourth package of Duqm port related to the government quay is now under the delivery procedures from the contractor, pointing out that the government quay is deemed the first integrated dock executed in the ports of Oman to serve government agencies, with a length of 980 meters. It is one of the most important security facilities in Duqm port which will provide readiness to manage logistics operations for such entities and to provide the security aspect for the port and the entire zone.

Commercial quay

H.E also discussed the progress of work in the second package of Duqm port in relation to the commercial dock. He said that now the completed parts of the dock are being delivered to the Duqm port company in order not to affect the current operations at the port that need to continue uninterrupted while the executing company maintains execution pace of the project. H.E expected that works of the second package would be completed in the first half of next year, considering, he added, that the current works on the commercial quay include the construction of four stations on the commercial quay, including two container stations with a length of about 1,600 meters to handle about 3.5 million containers per year, a station for bulk dry materials with a capacity of about 5 million metric tons per year, and a multi - use station with a capacity of about 800 thousand metric tons per year. The second package also includes the establishment of the operations area in the port.

Oil berth

His Excellency also tackled the workflow in the seventh package of Duqm port relating to





the oil berth. H.E. stated that some milestones of the project were completed this year, but the increasing demand on the port made it necessary to set a plan to develop and expand the oil berth in order to meet the requirements of the new oil companies wishing to invest in Duqm, such as the international Shell, Occidental Co., and Oxia Co. based in Houston, the USA.

Increasing the depth of the fishing port

On the sea fishing port project, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri announced that the Authority decided to increase the depth of the port from 6 meters to 10 meters in order to prepare the port to attract large fishing vessels operating on the deep sea and to increase the economic value of the port which will be a major center for fish industries in the Sultanate and the zone. He explained that the fishing port in Duqm is considered the largest fishing port in the Sultanate, having an area of 600 hectares and including a fish industry zone that is expected to host about 60 entities specialized in the field of fish processing, canning and other fish industries.

Development of the infrastructure in the zone

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri emphasized that the Authority pays considerable attention developing the infrastructure of the special economic zone of Duqm, and explained that a number projects are under execution now, especially in road works, whereas various investment areas are linked together. H.E. also extended that during this

month 7 new agreements in infrastructure sector in the zone will be signed.

Investment projects

On the investment projects in the zone, H.E. said that this year witnessed the groundbreaking of construction works in Duqm refinery, and that works started on the integrated station of electricity and water, and the commercial operations of the refinery producing Sebacic acid. H.E. added that in the coming period will witness the launch of construction works of bus assembly plant, which is established held by investments from the Qatari Karwa Company and the Investment Fund of Oman, not mentioning many other projects.

Local and international attention

H.E. Yahya Bin Said Al Jabri, the Chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, concluded his speech by emphasizing the local and international attention paid to the zone. H.E. confirmed that a lot of benefits have been achieved over the past years in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, not only did it include the development of the zone, rendering it a developmental hub, creating job opportunities for citizens, and securing an opportunity for Omani companies to invest in the Sultanate, and providing diverse work opportunities for small and medium-size enterprises but also highlight the economic importance of the zone located on the international shipping lines, resulting in the attraction of many international companies.



The Sultanate's delegation to the Belt and Road Forum is looking to support the Chinese industrial park project

The governmental pier of Port of Duqm is taking procedures to receive the project from the contractor

Receiving the ready sites from the commercial pier and delivering it to Port of Duqm company

Approving a plan to extend the oil platform to meet the requirements of oil companies wishing to invest in Duqm

Shell International, Occidental and Oxia Houston are willing to invest in the region

Translate of strategic cooperation between the two countries

The Sultanate Participates in the Belt & Road Forum

Yahya Al Jabri, in front of businessmen, set forth the incentives to invest in Duqm



BEIJING (China) - :

His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development - Ithraa and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, has participated in the Belt and Road Forum in his capacity as the representative of the Sultanate, presiding a delegation that included His Excellency the Ambassador of the Sultanate approved in the People's Republic of China as well as officials from Ithraa and the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

The activities of this second version of the forum were held in the Chinese capital city of Beijing from 25-26 April, 2019 with the participation of a large number of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and government representatives from the countries around the world.

During the forum participants discussed the development projects implemented during the past years in the countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, together with the future projects they look forward to achieve.

The Sultanate participated in the activities of the forum on the basis of the strategic cooperation, which translates the presidential declaration for establishing relations of strategic part-

nership - issued by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos - may God protect him, and His Highness President of China in May last year, and in the light of the advancement witnessed in the works of the Chinese Industrial Park in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

In his speech before about 50 Chinese businessmen, His Excellency Mr. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ithraa, confirmed the incentives provided by the Special Economic Zone at Duqm to foreign investors.

In a businessmen forum hosted by the Chinese city of Ningbo on April 27, 2019 His Excellency said that the work in the Chinese-Omani Industrial Park of Duqm is proceeding well, praising the economic cooperation existing between the Sultanate and China under the Belt and Road program as well as the economic partnership between the two countries.

During his visit to China, the delegation held a number of meetings with their Chinese officials, and they visited some Chinese companies specialized in fish industries and the fishing port in Ningbo city. A number of partnership agreements were signed with the Chinese companies desiring to run investments in Duqm.

Visit some Chinese companies specialized in fish industries and the fishing port in Ningbo city.





As part of the Sultanate's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative

Yahya Al-Jabri discusses strengthening trade and investment relations with China

BEIJING (China) -  :

Yahya bin Saeed al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa), held a meeting in Beijing with Ning Jiezhi, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China.

The meeting dealt with ways of boosting trade and investment relations between the two friendly countries in the context of the Sultanate's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. The two sides also reviewed the latest achievements in Sino-Oman Industrial Park in Duqm and ways to accelerate the work and expand the sectors covered. The meeting also touched upon the aspects of cooperation in the financial, banking, investment and cultural fields.



The meeting was attended by Abdulsalam bin Mohammed al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of the State General Reserve Fund (SGRF), HE Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh al Saadi, the Sultanate's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and Dr. Khalfan al Barwani, Vice President of the Central Bank of Oman for Investment and Market Operations, among other of Ithraa and the SEZ Authority of Duqm (SEZAD).

 **Ways to accelerate the work at Sino-Oman Industrial Park in Duqm and expand the sectors covered**



 **The meeting with Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission touched upon the aspects of cooperation in the financial, banking, investment fields**

Ithraa keeps the Chinese Companies updated on the Opportunities of Investment in Oman

Chinese officials stress desire to strengthen economic and investment ties with the Sultanate

Province of Yunnan is intending to pay a visit to the Sultanate of Oman by a commercial and investment delegation

Chinese side expressing its willingness to invest in the sectors of infrastructure, tourism, energy, and logistics



The delegation with the deputy manager of Foreign Affairs in a Collective Photo

Yunnan (China) - :

Chinese officials stressed the desire of their country to strengthen economic relations with the Sultanate and increase investments for the mutual benefits of both countries and peoples.

This was a statement during the meetings held by the delegation of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa), In Collaboration with SEZAD and Ministry of Tourism.

with a number of Chinese officials in Yunnan Province in the south-west of China famous for agriculture, mining and tourism.

Yang Mu, Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Office of the Government of Yunnan Province, said the provincial government is willing to invest in a number of economic sectors in the Sultanate, such as infrastructure, tourism, energy, logistics, minerals, waste management and cooperation in the cultural field.

"The province plans to organize a visit to the Sultanate in the second half of this year for a trade and investment delegation specialized in a number of economic sectors, especially infrastructure, tourism, energy, logistics, waste management and minerals," added Yang.

Yang Mu visited the Sultanate last April and met with a number of government agencies, in-

cluding Ithraa, Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance, the State General Reserve Fund (SGRF) and the Central Bank of Oman. During her meeting with Ithraa delegation in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, Mu expressed her admiration for the Sultanate and its growth in various sectors. She said that there are many opportunities and fields to enhance cooperation between the two countries and encourage joint investments.

She stressed that after her return from Muscat, she recommended placing the Sultanate within the radar of Chinese investors in Yunnan Province. "We are ready to market the Sultanate to our citizen," added Yang.

The meeting dealt with a number of areas of cooperation between Ithraa and Yunnan Province, thus contributing to attracting new Chinese investments to the Sultanate.

Encouraging Tourism Cooperation

Shi Lin, Deputy General Director of Tourism and Culture at Province of Yunnan, from her side, praised highly the step taken by the Omani Ministry of Tourism to open a representative office in China for tourism promotion, saying that this step will contribute to encouraging the tourism exchange between the two countries and introducing the culture of each country to





During the meeting with the Deputy Director General of Tourism

the other and its touristic characteristics.

She has also praised the new facilities introduced by Oman Royal Police (ROP) in terms of the newly activated electronic visas for Chinese tourists and investors, she expects that these facilities would contribute to increase the numbers of Chinese tourists and investors willing to travel to or invest in the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting with the delegation of Ithraa, she called upon the Omani tourists to visit the Province of Yunnan and get acquainted with its characteristics of touristic richness, ethnic diversity and the around the year modest climate.

Cooperation in Renewable Energy Projects

In the city of Lijiang, about 500 km from Kunming, Ithraa delegation met with Zhang Renbin, Vice Mayor of Lijiang City Government. The meeting discussed cooperation between the two countries, especially Lijiang City in the fields of tourism, investment, and sustainable energy projects.

The city of Lijiang is famous for the implementation of a number of renewable energy projects, including a project in the Arab region. He expressed the city's willingness to cooperate with the Sultanate in renewable energy projects.

Visits paid to Companies

In the same context, the General Authority

for Promotion of Investment and Export Development (Ithraa) has visited a number of large companies in Province of Yunnan in China to keep them updated on investment opportunities available in the Sultanate, The delegation visited the Yunnan State Farms Group Ltd., which is the only large state-owned agricultural enterprise in Yunnan Province; the group is also the leader in the field of agricultural manufacturing.

The delegation has also paid a visit to Yunnan Group, which is specialized in investment in the transport and communications sector, the largest group of public transport companies in the province. The delegation also visited Yunnan Telecommunications and Construction Investment Company, which is engaged in the construction of transport systems, and Yunnan Energy Investment Group, which is engaged in the construction of renewable power plants; during the meeting, they discussed avenues of future cooperation and the fields in which the Chinese companies can invest in the Sultanate.

International Symposium on Smart Tourism

These visits were part of the Sultanate's participation in the activities of the International Symposium of International Tourism held in mid-May 2019 under the slogan "Smart Tourism for a Better Life"; the Participants in the forum highlighted the significance of modern technologies in public life, transportation, communication and communication between

Yang Mu: we are ready for marketing the Sultanate before our citizens

Chi Lin: we expect numbers of tourists and investors in the sultanate are going to increase

Deputy Mayor of Lijiang city: we are willing to participate in renewable energy project projects



From the opening session of the Symposium

Deliberations over the future cooperation with Chinese companies willing to invest in the Sultanate

Ministry of Tourism is intending to open a representative office in China during this year



A number of visitors to the Sultanate's pavilion

peoples around the world, and the key role that electronic applications play in the society and economy.

During the forum, Nasima Bint Yahia Al Balaushi, Director General of Investment and Exports (Ithraa), delivered keynote address at the forum delivered a speech addressing the Sultanate's investments in the infrastructure of the tourism sector, the increasing numbers of hotels, and the efforts exerted by the government in terms of encouraging the private sector to invest in the tourism sector.

The Sultanate Pavilion in the Exhibition

The Sultanate pavilion, in the exhibition associated with the symposium, witnessed a notable interest from the side of the visitors. The representatives of "Ithraa", SEZAD and the Ministry of Tourism have updated the visitors on the Sultanate's available investment opportunities, the facilities offered to investors, in addition to the touristic attractions distributed all over the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

Omar bin Salim Al Jabri, Representative of

Ministry of Tourism, said in the exhibition that the Ministry's ultimate beyond this participation is to promote the Sultanate touristic elements, to get acquainted with the similar experiences of other countries taking part herein and the modern technologies they have leveraged thereon to promote tourism.

Also, he has indicated that the pavilion was well received by the Chinese visitors and companies, stressing that he kept the visitors acquainted with the facilities offered by the Sultanate with regard to the electronic tourism visa service.

He said that the Ministry is in the process of opening a representative office in China this year as a result of the increasing number of Chinese tourists heading to the Sultanate.

During the exhibition, SEZAD distributed booklets and pamphlets drafted in both Chinese and English to keep the Chinese business community and tourists aware of the investment privileges of SEZAD, investment opportunities available in the tourism sector, hotels operating in Duqm, and the temperate climate of the zone throughout the year.



Side of the meetings

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The Silk Sea

It can be said that 2019 is the decisive year for the Belt and Road Initiative released by the Chinese leadership in 2013, since the launch of the initiative it did not come under criticism as it did in the last year. A criticism that seemed to be part of a plan from the US administration to confront the rise of China; this criticism was accompanied by the rise of a robust commercial and technological conflict between the two countries, which is still pending so far and which chokes the world because it affects the overall economic, financial, commercial and investment activities in the world.

Beijing has responded to the criticism officially and with constant confirmation that the belt and road is not a political alliance but, rather, a comprehensive, shared and sustainable development plan that meets the interests of all parties. In April 2019, the 2nd Belt and Road Forum was held in the Beijing, as we know, with intensive attendance of countries and in the presence of businessmen and concerned parties from the United States itself, despite the US official boycott of the forum. All this has been considered as an international vote on the importance of the plan. In the 2019 the international business map tends to the future, until it shows clear landmarks in full. It was not an accident that Italy - Member of the Group of Seven - joined the Belt and Road Initiative under such circumstances and the interest of Russia and most western European countries increased their relations with China to that limit. Perhaps it is because of their concerns about the current US policy which raises the slogan of "America First" and illogically imposes sanctions in different directions.

The source of interest in the relations may also be attributed to the faith that the coming is Asian and is different; so, they must establish an early attendance therein. The number of state signatories to the action map of the belt and road initiative reached about 130 countries, including 17 Arab countries. It is known that The Sultanate of Oman participated in the forum with a delegation led by Mr. Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Economic Zone Authority. The participation of the Sultanate in the forum activities came from the basis of the strategic cooperation agreement concluded between the two countries in May 2017, and in the light of the developing works of the Chinese Industrial City in the Duqm Special Economic Zone.

In 2019, a new matter emerged whose features have dramatically appeared, which is the desire of many parties, particularly in the region of Central Asia, Turkey and East of Europe, to reform the region's geography (by drilling new channels, passages, roadways, and changing the rivers ways or paving roads through mountains, etc.) out of their awareness of the importance that the country should be a center hub for the land, sea, river, and sea and railways of transportation in the world today, and for the huge benefit being achieved out of it.

What was said about an important infrastructure of the state as an indispensable element to attract investment has been said today about the regional infrastructure which incorporates multinational projects involving many parties. The belt and road plan opened everyone's appetite to achieve this goal. China's creation of a canal through Nicaragua to be an alternative to the Panama Canal has attracted all to try and take the risk. We see what is happening in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and how Turkey is seeking to dig another strait through the Bosphorus, and how Kazakhstan establishes land roads and railways which it did not think of before, we see what Georgia is doing in the hope that the country would become a primary logistical hub being a the shortest road linking between Asia and Europe.



Historically, Russia was assured that their ports in the East and the Siberian Railway Line were the only solution for Asia to reach Europe, beside the Suez Canal. However, today many of these ports and railways compete with the Russian transport lines. The Russian President himself said that he personally follows up the development of the use of the north Arctic Ocean as a sea line linking between the east China, Korea, Japan and others to the heart of Europe faster than the Suez Canal. Commander Mohab Mamish, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority told me a while ago that he visited this road and discovered it's hard for it to compete the Canal, noting that the number of vessels that passed through it in the year was the same number that passes through from the Suez Canal in a day. However, the attempts of developing that road will not stop in the writer's opinion. Meanwhile, Russia now evaluates the so-called north line extending from Russia to Iran and India which will compensate for any decline in its logistic position due to the competitions of the nearby belt and road countries. In my humble estimation, the Sultanate of Oman will benefit from that line in a manner that has not been planned before by the officials.

There are countless gas and oil pipelines that were and are being established. Everyone tries and wants, and everyone seeks to control the nature to its desires and to have the highest flexibility in the face of changes. Practically, ship-borne containers need thousands of train carriages but the trains are much faster and take less time to be loaded and unloaded. Trains also can reach the close consumers points more than cruise lines can. In general, the thinking ongoing in the almost every country includes a mixture of instruments whenever circumstances permit, not one instrument.

It was a violent dispute between Turkey and Germany on the one side and England and France on the other side on the Hijaz railway line in the vicinity of the First World War. While the First Party was concerned with reconstruction of this road, the other party insisted in destroying it out of their belief of the risk of connecting those countries located on the Hijaz line. During that time, may be it was fortunate that there was strong consensus on the expansion of transport networks, based on clear agreements in which the definition of mutual benefit was clear, but the competition was also huge between multiple parties. I will not be an exaggeration to point out that the Sultanate of Oman stands in the midst of this momentum on a solid background of history beyond that road. The sound and wise relationships with the parties of the belt and road system, together with its high readiness, as well as its strong unique location, all of which have played a considerable role in the Sultanate's favor. And it does not need to change the course of nature, or to restructure its policies. That is, the Sultanate's coasts extend to all the Arabian Sea, along with its dialogue approaches, peace and mutual benefits and the respect of sovereignty that is rooted therein, which is also the secret of the success of the belt and road plan. It has added strong investment cooperation and financing elements with China to a worth of more than US\$10 billion; which reinforces its position. The Sultanate has Duqm area to be introduced to Russia for investment, manufacturing and energy; therefore, while the Sultanate promotes itself in Moscow or when it exists in the Beijing, and when it talks with its neighbors or with Egypt, India or Pakistan, etc., the Sultanate will find support and welcome. The Sultanate is a very special window overlooking the "Silk Sea".

Preparation of an Environmental Strategy for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

Environmental Regulatory Dept. Manager: Preparation of an Environmental Strategy for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

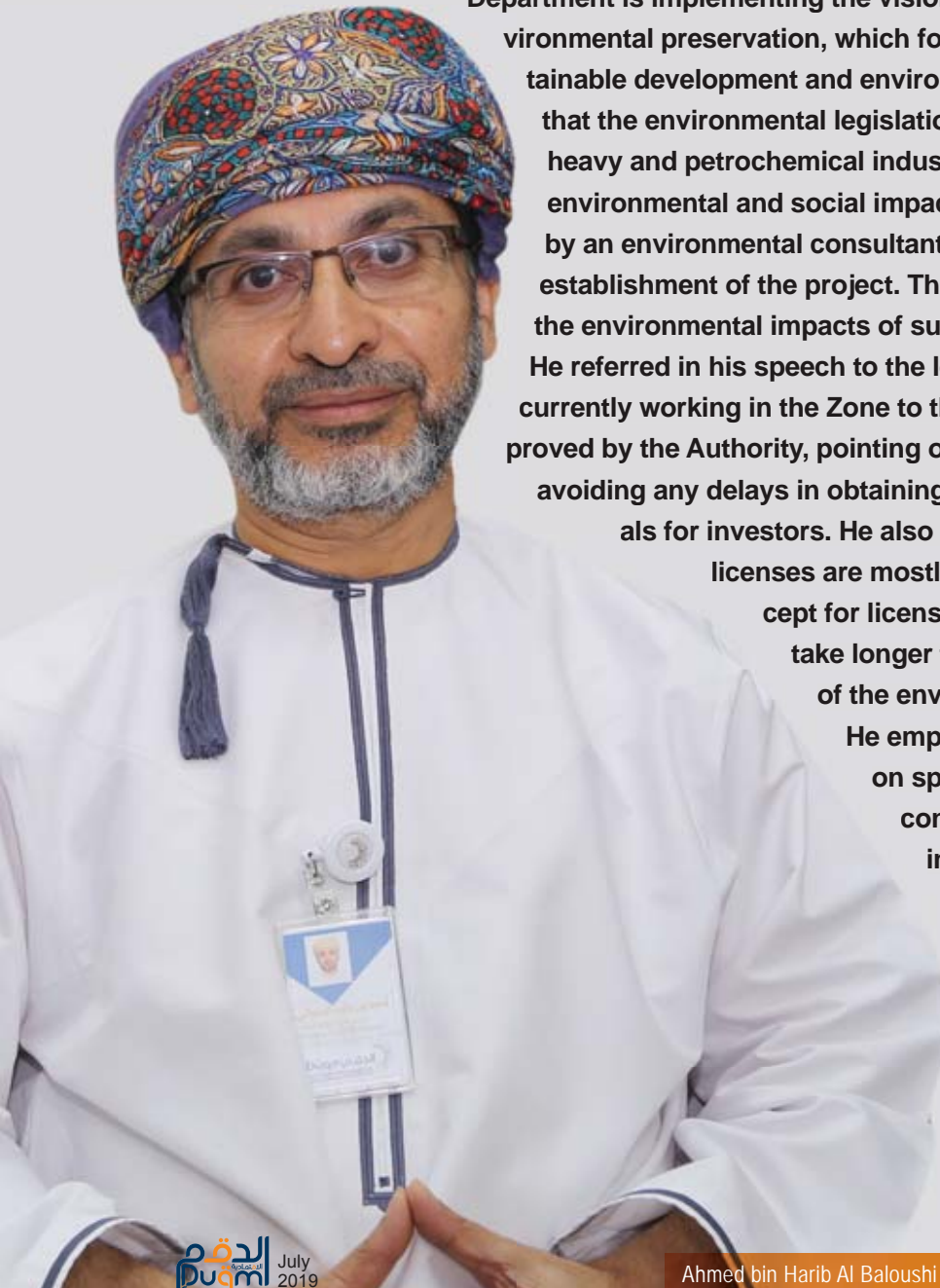
 Duqm -  :

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) announced today that it is preparing an environmental strategy for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. Ahmed bin Harib Al Baloushi, Manager of the Environmental Regulatory Department at the Authority, said that a task force from the Authority and the Scientific Research Council had been formed to prepare this strategy, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

He added in an interview with Al Duqm Economic that the Environmental Regulatory Department is implementing the vision of the Authority in the field of environmental preservation, which focuses on the harmonization of sustainable development and environmental protection. He also explained that the environmental legislation applied by the Authority require it heavy and petrochemical industries to prepare a study, assessing the environmental and social impacts, and to submit it to the Authority, by an environmental consultant approved in the Sultanate, before the establishment of the project. The aim of this procedure is to reduce the environmental impacts of such projects.

He referred in his speech to the level of commitment by the projects currently working in the Zone to the environmental requirements approved by the Authority, pointing out that the Authority is working on avoiding any delays in obtaining the required environmental approvals for investors. He also said that environmental permits and licenses are mostly issued within 5 working days, except for licenses of heavy industrial projects that take longer time as it involves review of study of the environmental effects of such projects.

He emphasized that the Authority is working on speeding up the procedures so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of investors on the one hand and the preservation of the environment on the other. He stressed that the Authority is keen to develop the environmental requirements in order to keep pace with the steady growth of the Authority's projects. Below are the details of the interview.





Quality of environment and life is a central point of Authority's attention

Delivering 121 inspection visits in 2018 and 66 visits in the first quarter of this year (2019),

Strict environmental control on petrochemical projects for the preservation of environment

Harmonization of sustainable development and environmental protection
Special Economic Zone at Duqm is witnessing the implementation of several major industrial projects which generate waste that may affect the environment. What are the procedures taken by the Authority to ensure that the environment is not negatively affected by the economic activities running in the region, especially from the heavy and petrochemical industries?

Environmental Regulatory Department is keen to achieve harmonization between the sustainable development and environmental protection. Smart cities are based on the three pillars, namely: economic, environmental and social aspects. The heavy industrial projects such as the petrochemical industries must first provide the Authority with a study assessing the environmental and social impacts, conducted by an environmental consultant certified in the Sultanate, before the establishment of the project. This study is prepared to understand whether the project has any adverse impact on the environment and to identify and evaluate the possible risks and the procedures for dealing with any emergencies, and to determine the actions necessary to prevent, eliminate or control such adverse impacts.

This study includes all the mitigation measures that are necessary to protect the ecosystem (air, water and soil) pollution, including waste resulting from the industry. After the completion of the project and prior to the start of the commercial operation, the environmental control team of the Authority shall verify that the project has met all the requirements set forth in the environmental and social impact study. The final environmental permit is only granted after all the requirements are duly satisfied.

Pillars of Environmental Protection in Duqm

What are the most prominent aspects on which the Authority depends when exercising environmental control and supervision in the region?

The most prominent pillars that are relied on for this aspect is: the national and international environmental legislation, including the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Law,

issued under the Royal Decree No. (114/2001) and the Regulation on Organization of Environmental Permits in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, issued under Resolution No. (326/2015), as well as the International Environmental Conventions ratified or acceded to by the Sultanate, not mentioning the general policies established by the Authority to preserve the environment in the region .

Good commitment

To what extent do the projects in the region respond to the environmental requirements set by the Authority?

Projects are always committed to comply with all environmental requirements and to establish a real partnership with the Authority, to achieve the common objectives in protecting the environment from pollution. The level of projects commitment to the environmental requirements varies according to the awareness and interest of the project management in this aspect. Overall, we would like to express our satisfaction , with the level of commitment demonstrated by those in charge of the projects. At the same time we would like to take this opportunity through this press interview to emphasize, to the projects departments, in the Zone, their need to focus on the understanding of environmental requirements and ensuring their due compliance with them, in order to avoid any legal consequences arising from such aspect.

Environmental Approvals

Do all projects being executed in Duqm require environmental approvals?

We have classified the economic activities in the Zone into a set of categories according to the nature of the economic activity and its environmental effects. Every project that involves a manufacturing process must obtain an environmental permit, but the procedures vary according to the category to which the project belongs. For example, the projects listed under the category of light industries need only to fill in the application form and after studying the application the environmental permit will be issued in maximum five (5) working days, from the date of application.

We tend to classify the projects into three segments or categories for the purpose of determining the environmental requirements for the economic activity in the Zone, based on the lo-

cation, materials used in production, production capacity, and level of impact on the environment. In the first category, the activities to be carried out will require an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) study. The second category includes the activities that require the submission of an environmental management plan (EMP). The third category includes activities that require compliance with the established environmental requirements, without the need to submit an ESIA or EMP study.

Environmental Permits and Licenses

What types of environmental permits and licenses are issued by the Authority? What are the stages of the investment application until it is finally issued?

The Authority represented by the Environmental Regulatory Department seeks to facilitate procedures for investors and to continuously develop the work mechanisms through the application of the (Lean Startup) methodology which is concerned with finding solutions to the problems the project and reengineering the procedures to achieve success. Accordingly, the Department integrated the environmental permit with all environmental licenses related to the project, and are issued together. This has resulted in time and effort efficiency for the Authority and investors has also welcomed this procedure. However, for the types of the current environmental permits (initial, temporary, and final permits), the Authority is working on plan to integrate them into a single permit after updating the Regulation Organizing the Environmental Permits for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (in the future) so that only one environmental permit will be issued without the need for the initial or temporary permits.

Environmental licenses include a number of licenses, namely: a license for manufacturing, sale, or use of hazardous chemicals, and license for dumping of solid substances in sea environment, and license for discharge of liquid waste into the sea environment, license for liquid transfer between offshore installations, license

for discharge (wastewater treatment, wastewater in evaporation ponds, reject from desalination plants etc), license for waste management, and a license for climate change, radioactive material use, licenses for the import and export of hazardous materials and waste etc. This depends on the requirement of the project. The procedure that is currently in force is issuing a license to practice the activity, including environmental permit under the requirements of the project.

Environmental requirements

What are the environmental requirements that the Authority focuses on before awarding the final environmental permit?

The Department shall prepare environmental requirements in Arabic and English versions. Environmental requirements are divided into: general and project specific for each project. The technical requirements of the project vary depending on the type of the project. These requirements will help the investor in the mechanism of environmental protection and pollution control, especially for the heavy industries. The Environmental permit oblige the investor to comply with the provisions of national environmental legislations and regulations implementing the provisions of these legislations, in addition to the requirements from the ESIA study,. The investor is also committed not to exceed the permissible limits of discharging liquid, solid or gas wastes into the ecosystems. Moreover, the investor is required to provide the Department with the monitoring reports on environmental pollutants on a quarterly basis. These reports are evaluated by the Department's experts to ascertain their compliance.

Continuous development of work procedures

The Regulation of Environmental Permits Organization stipulates that the Authority shall study and decide on the environmental application within a period not exceed-

Requiring all heavy projects to submit a study evaluating the environmental and social impacts before the construction of the project

Develop environmental requirements to keep up with the steady growth of projects



Inspection visits to one of the companies operating within the zone



Birds and beaches are key anchors in the preservation of environment

We are keen to raise the level of environmental awareness to achieve integrated environmental management

The investor is obliged, not to exceed the permissible limits for the disposal of liquid, solid and gas wastes to ecosystems

Most environmental permits and licenses are issued within 5 working days

ing 40 days. Don't you think that this period is relatively long? Does the Authority have a plan to reduce it?

The Department adopts a flexible methodology which urges them to perform continuous development of the work procedures. Accordingly, this period is the maximum issuance term for an environmental permit, whereas the actual term varies according to the environmental requirements of each project, as well as the complications that accompany it. A proposal has been raised for upgrading the Regulation of Environmental Permits to reduce the term for issuance of permit. This include reducing time from (40) days to (30) days maximum for issuing the new permits for heavy industries, while medium-sized industries do not exceed a period of (15) days for permit issuance. Light industries, on the other hand, do not exceed (5) working days.

The renewal of environmental permits does not require more than five (5) working days at a maximum. The department will also review the previous database to find out the periods scheduled for issuing the environmental permits of its different categories in order to reach the real indicators based on which the Authority can reduce the periods in the future, especially after the issuance of permits has been transferred to an integrated electronic system.

Environmental Control

What are the environmental types of control exercised by the Authority?

Environmental Control is part of the environmental management and is considered to be an integrated approach so that it continues to evaluate the environmental situation of the project

throughout its lifetime beginning from the ESIA study until it is completed. By the issuance of the environmental permit, the environmental requirements, the provision of reports on the monitoring of pollution in the ecosystems, and the field environmental inspection of all kinds, taking and analysis of samples, and the continuous assessment reports of environmental monitoring, the Environmental Control is deemed a non-stop life cycle of the project.

The Department has an inspections plan scheduled for the year. Inspection visits vary between regular inspections- where the project is announced prior to the visit to sudden unannounced inspections, and inspection for the purpose of investigation prior to issuing the environmental permit. The Department also pays visits based on the complaints received from citizens when any sources of pollution may exist.

Inspection visits

We'd like you to shed light on the inspection visits conducted by the Authority to the existing projects in the region?

The department prepared an inspection form for the field visits for the purpose of facilitating the procedures for the employee to ensure full satisfaction and actual implementation of the environmental requirements granted to the project. The inspection team compare the results of monitoring the pollution levels of various ecosystems to the permitted limits with the national or international level and environmental requirement, and prepare site assessment reports which identifies non-conformities, if any, and the priorities and set the goals and propose the recommendations actions necessary for the project to modify the



The main entrance of the landfill



environmental situation within a specified time period. These procedures are applied during various visits, whether sudden or periodic ones. Should the project fail to comply with the recommendations that were addressed to it officially, within the specified period, all legal measures stipulated under the environmental laws and its executive regulations will be applied.

The Department paid (121) field visits in 2018 while in the first quarter of 2019, there has been 66 field visits.

Environmental awareness

What are the activities do you do for raising the awareness of the importance of environment?

Raising the level of environmental awareness, whether for the community or the projects is one fundamental element to achieve the integrated environmental management. This is achieved through the publication in the Duqm Economic Magazine or publishing announcements with distinctive environmental objectives through the Authority's social media accounts or by organizing workshops and lectures in schools, associations and civil society and for the staff of projects or celebrating environmental events and inviting the civil society to participate therein.

Environmental challenges

The increase in the number of petrochemical and heavy industries projects in Duqm has posed new environmental challenges. What is your plan to face such challenges? Does the Authority have an environmental strategy to ensure the preservation of environment in Duqm?

As mentioned earlier, the Authority is keen to develop the environmental requirements that keep pace with the steady growth of the Authority's projects. These requirements requires the petrochemical and heavy industries to prepare the ESIA studies that assessment the expected impacts of the project and how to mitigate them.

As for the environmental strategy, the Authority has formed a task force in cooperation with the Scientific Research Council to prepare an environmental strategy for the region. We hope that this strategy will be finalized and adopted before the end of this year.

Also, there is an action plan for the Environmental Regulatory Department for the year 2019, which was designed by the department staff and then formally adopted, wherein (14) goals were identified clarifying the indicators to measure the percentage of achievement as per he period specified in the plan. The first assessment will be conducted in July 2019 (press interview was held in June, 2019). As for the second assessment, it will be in January 2020.

The objectives set forth in the Action Plan are deemed the fundamental basis for confronting the current challenges and, hence, the future work applies to such objectives. The challenges will continue whenever new industries, especially heavy industries, are established; however, it will simultaneously contribute directly and indirectly to the polishing the capabilities, develop the skills and raise the technical level of all employees in the department, and all of this will result in continuous research for solutions and establishing an innovative environment. Hence, the Department is well-prepared to encounter all challenges as per the priorities.

Periods for granting environmental licenses are under review. We are keen to keep pace with the latest global environmental practices

Environmental challenges continue as new industries are established. Our goal is to find solutions and create an innovative environment



Environmental Monitoring Tools in Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD)



Mahmoud bin Hamoud Al-Rawahi
General Manager For Compliance and Enforcement, Directorate general regulatory & compliance

Diversifying the national income sources and finding new sources that increase the national income rates have become one of the primary objectives for most countries. So, these countries seek to achieve this goal by promoting their economic development by the establishment of a set of projects, mainly the industrial projects which are considered by some as one of the most important causes of environmental pollution.

In the past it was largely thought that environment protection limits economic development, but this notion has begun to change recently due to the change in trends and policies supporting environment protection and adoption of the comprehensive and sustainable development concept. Further considering precautionary measures to prevent and eliminate the sources of pollution resulting from development and mitigating its consequences and taking into account the integration of environmental management with the concerns of economic and social development, any undesirable environmental effects can be avoided or made as low as reasonably possible

In the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), the management strives to achieve harmonization of sustainable development and environmental protection. Therefore, the establishment of the projects, particularly heavy industries such as petrochemicals, which plays a vital and active role in the economic and social development, requires sound management for protection and preservation of the environment. The administration of the Authority seeks to take advantage of the concept of smart cities as one of the major tools for the protection of the environment against pollution. The smart cities that are mainly dependent on the use of technology, are able to contribute positively to sustainable development as they achieve environmental benefits by reducing the consumption of electricity using smart systems and the use of renewable energy sources as an alternative to the existing energy sources and the pollution control plants. The notion of a sustainable city depends primarily on an environmental and economic vision and social culture.

Believing in the local and global trends calling for the preservation of environment, The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) has paid particular attention to the sustainability of the environment since its establishment. I will briefly discuss some of the tools we use to control and supervise the environment in The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD):

First: Legislative and Regulatory Measures: Represented the issuance of legislation and regulations govern-

ing the environment protection and development of standards and requirements governing the economic activities in the Zone. The Duqm special economic zone system issued by Royal Decree No. 79/2013 vested the Authority with the powers of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs to enforce the environmental protection laws, pollution control, protection of drinking water sources from pollution, protection of the natural reserves, conservation of wildlife and the system of handling and use of chemicals. In 2015, the Authority issued a Regulation for Organizing the Issuance of Environmental Permits in the Zone, which is currently being reviewed to keep pace with the advancements taking place in the region and with a view of enhancing environmental control and supervision.

Second: The Institutional Measures: Represented the establishment of a Department specialized in environmental Regulatory within the Authority's Regulatory hierarchy, whose powers include setting general policies and the preparation of plans and programs that are necessary for the protection of the environment, pollution control, nature reservation, management of climate affairs, and follow-up of its implementation, evaluation and development in order to cope with the current developments in the Zone. The Environment Regulatory Department is also involved in ensuring the safety of environment, pollution control and protection of the various ecosystems in the framework of the basic objectives of sustainable development, and studying the assessment of the environmental impacts and issuing the environmental permits and licenses. The Environment Regulatory Department includes four sections: Environmental Assessment and Permitting, Environment Inspection, Environmental monitoring and pollution control, and Material and Hazardous Waste Management.

Third: Request of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Studies: ESIA is required for projects with major environmental impacts. ESIA study has to be conducted by an approved environmental-Consultancy to determine whether the project or work area of the project has any adverse effects on the environment and will also include the measures that address any adverse impacts and how to mitigate them.

The purpose of the evaluation of the environmental impacts is to ensure the protection and preservation of environment and natural resources - including the aspects related to human health against the effects of development which lack control. The long-term goal of this evaluation is to ensure sustainable development that can meet the needs of the present time without compromising the fu-

ture generations' capability of meeting their own needs. The evaluation of the adverse effects on environment is deemed an important tool of the environment management method which shall be conducted for the new facilities and projects or for the expansions and renovations of the existing facilities. ESIA studies will provide a guidance for the Authority to decide whether the project can be approved or not, from an environmental and social perspective, in the Zone. All the projects are committed to initiate the implementation of all environmental measures provided in the ESIA study.

Fourth: Issue of Environmental Permits and Licenses: The purpose of the permits is to ensure the environmentally sound activity before granting the approval for its practice within the Zone. Environmental licenses are an important tool for the environmental control because they include the detailed environmental requirements that the project must adhere to during the construction and operation of the project.

Fifth: Periodic Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Reports - Monitoring reports are considered as an important regulatory tool. Some of the projects are committed to submit monitoring reports, in accordance with the requirements of environmental licenses in the frequency and type as determined by the Authority. The Authority compile and analyze the data contained therein, to assess the environmental impact on receiving media (air, soil and water) to make sure that the projects are committed to the standards and limits allowable for disposal of pollutants to the environment.

Sixth: Environmental Inspection: It is the field visits conducted by the Environmental Inspector to the projects working in the Zone in order to assess their commitment to the applicable laws and regulations as well as the prescribed environmental requirements and conditions. I would like to emphasize here that the main purpose of the control and supervisory work is not only limited to the detection or discovery of irregularities or errors, but also to creating an added value represented in improving the performance and efficiency of the projects under the control and inspection of the Authority, with respect to their commitment to the legislation governing the Zone, and to verifying their understanding of the proper application of this legislation. It also provides observations, recommendations and proposals that reinforce their future commitment in order to avoid any legal consequences. The Regulatory and Compliance work also aims to give the executive management of the Authority outcomes and references about any challenges or problems related to the application of the existing legislation by

the entities subject to the supervision of the Authority, and to suggest the proposals that aim at developing them, in a manner that serves the public interest. We always emphasize these goals to all employees working in the field of environmental inspection and monitoring.

Seventh: Penalties - These are the disciplinary actions taken by the Authority management against the violations that are detected. Penalties vary according to the gravity and repetition of the offense. As we said earlier the goal is not in detecting an offense, but rather this penalty is taken as one of the disciplinary tools that contribute to the enhancement of the supervisory level in the Zone. It shall serve as a deterrent against those who are tempted to harm the environment.

Eighth: Complaints and reports - This is one of the important sources of control over pollution of the environment. The Authority has developed a mobile application that allows the public to report all the cases of pollution in the Zone, as well as any complaint or grievances, and the competent body deals with such reports instantly and the required measures will be taken to mitigate/answer the same.

Ninth: Awareness and information, the directors of the Authority believe that awareness and information are deemed to be the first line of defense to overcome the environmental issues and problems. The Authority have sought to organize many of the awareness programs for all segments of the society in the Zone including the officials in charge of the projects operating in the Zone, the local citizens and students of school. The goal of these programs is raising their knowledge about the environmental problems and related risks for the sake of developing their environmental awareness and changing the negative values and trends, especially in relation to management that could deal with the wastes and protect the natural wealth and healthy habits that contribute to the protection of the environment. Such programs are implemented in partnership with other government agencies and organizations of the civil society such as Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, the Governor's Office, the Omani Women's Association, etc.

Finally, we would like to assure that the protection and preservation of the environment against any potential damage is the responsibility of everyone who lives on the soil of this dear homeland. It is also a national and social duty that should not be abandoned. That is, the protection of the environment is the responsibility of all, rather than a particular party.

ODC Confirms that the Environmental Field is an important Factor of Attraction for Maritime Transport Companies

Oman Drydock Company LLC (ODC): Environmental Conservation comes at the Company's top priority



Continuous follow up on all Company's operations to ensure that it fulfill health prerequisites and requirements

Environmental Management System (EMS) Certificate constitutes a motive for continuous development

Duqm - :

Oman Drydock Company LLC (ODC) confirms that preservation of environment is one of the utmost goals sought by our company that implements strict standards in the course of the HSE policy adopted by the Company.

A report issued by the Company states that concerns for environmental protection originate from the principle of Sustained Development, stressing that industrial and technical progress should not contradict with the conservation of environment or any aspect thereof. In an endeavor to achieve this goal, a continuous monitoring is imposed over all the Company's operations, to ensure that it meets the HSE requirements, by a qualified professional and technical team; in addition to attaining assis-

tance by approved consultants from different competent authorities.

The report, which was reviewed by the Duqm Economic magazine, noted that the Environmental Management System Certificate (ISO 14001: 2015), obtained by the company, is a motive for continuous development, by setting specific goals for each department and monitoring performance on a continuous basis. The report did also point out that the environmental field constitutes an important factor of attraction for maritime transport companies. Specialized teams were entrusted to carry out an inspection to ensure that the company meets all environmental requirements (in addition to other aspects) prior to the award of ant maintenance contracts.

An Environmental Plan:

The report has indicated that all environ-





The Environment Plan focuses on protecting the marine environment as well as quality of air, water and soil

ment elements were included in the Company's environmental plan such as: marine environment, quality of air, water and soil. The plan consists of procedures designed basically to protect all the said elements, a list of laws applicable in the Sultanate of Oman in the field of environment, and reports that must be issued internally or by an environment consultant to be further submitted to the competent authorities. Also, Waste Management Plan and responding to all types of environmental contingencies, comprises part of that environmental plan.

Sundry Activities:

The report has addressed the most prominent activities carried out by the company in the field of environment preservation, indicating that the Company is implementing a number of actions and measured that aim at reducing the environmental impacts, most importantly; Developing internal strategies and standards to carry out the various activities in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations, and develop environmental plans and objectives for each department to be observed thereby, and to monitor performance by conducting an internal audit compliant and consistent with the requirements of the Environmental Management System Certificate.

The Company's procedures for environment protection also include: organizing training courses and awareness raising sessions for its employees at all levels, each in their respective areas. The topics related to health, safety and environment are discussed daily prior the commencement of any work. The Company also carries out day-to-day monitoring of all the different treatment plants in the Company, by means of monitoring systems and an internal

laboratory to ensure that they meet the permissible limits and allowances of the various elements.

Measuring Quality of Air, Water and Soil

The Company periodically collects random samples of air, water and soil and files a detailed report on the results of the analysis, in addition to a inspection made by a specialized team from one of the companies accredited by the International Organization for Standards to conduct an audit covering the administrative and practical aspects of environmental management. The Company also organizes clean-up campaigns, which involve all the employees, to emphasize the significance of the environment. In addition, the Company visits other companies working in the same field to get itself acquainted with its best environmental practices.

Waste Disposal

The report highlighted the means observed by the Company to dispose of the waste materials resulting from the existing operations and activities of ship repair and maintenance; clarifying that the Company has number of facilities to treat different types of waste generated from the repair and maintenance procedures and operations, for instance, the oil treatment plant receives and treats oil wastes to separate oil derivatives from water and solid wastes. The Company does also have an automated incinerator where flammable wastes are incinerated. The quality of the emissions is monitored on an immediate basis via a continuous monitoring system; emissions are monitored periodically by a company specialized in this field.

Implementation of a daily monitoring for all treatment plants adopted by the Company

Multiple facilities to address different types of waste materials resulting from the maintenance and repair operations





Environment-Friendly Sea Ports

Sea pollution is a concept that refers to a human act or its consequences that may change the environment and sea life elements and upset its balance. Sea pollution results from ongoing activities on the coasts and beaches, such as dredging operations and oil and gas excavations; it is also resulted from the movement and sailing of ships in marine lanes and sea coasts, and the frequencies of such vessels on the sea ports.

The concept of sea pollution also refers to the change of the natural balance of seas, oceans, organisms and marine life, and the damage to its biological resources including plants and sea organisms. This change occurs generally as a result of abnormal intervention of the pollutant in the sea environment with natural materials such as the organic substances and residues of metal treatment or industrial materials like plastic, pesticides, and others.

In this context, it is important to distinguish between two terms: "contamination" and "pollution", whereas the first term "Contamination" refers to the presence of concentrated substances in a specific area or spot in the seawater or the ocean beyond its normal level. The second term "Pollution" points to the introduction by humans of materials or reactions directly or indirectly to the sea environment, resulting in consequent harmful effects and threatening the existence of organisms and environmental balance and generally causing damage to the sea and biological resources and damaging the maritime operations and activities.

Causes of sea pollution

Statistical reports indicate that more than 80% of sea accidents occur as a result of human error; those accidents causing environmental problems in the sea ports may result from multiple reasons, including, for instance, engineering causes such as default of design and engineering specifications of pavements, shipping lanes and entrances to the harbor. Those causes could be operational because of the inefficiency of the traffic and guiding system of ships into maritime lanes inside the harbor, which may lead to various accidents that may result in sea pollution that would cause ship sinking, tilting or collision, which may result in different environmental pollution.

The movement of ships in seas, oceans and harbors results in the possibility of sea pollution in several ways. For example, oil spill or leakage

of chemicals from bulk liquid tankers; perhaps the best known accident was the accident of the "Exon Valdez" tanker which ran aground near the coast of Alaska and a huge amount of oil leaked into the Pacific Ocean waters in March 1989. Despite the efforts made to overcome the consequences of such a disaster, almost more than 400 thousand of various species of seabirds and about a thousand sea foxes, and a huge number of fish of various species, have died, which represented a severe environmental loss.

Also, it is worth mentioning that the pollution caused by the leakage and emissions of gases and exhausts from vessels, such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide and carbon black, into the atmosphere. The emissions resulted from the ship exhausts are considered one of the most important sources of atmospheric air pollution, accounting for the 18% - 30% of all the NOx emissions, while the emissions from ships engines of sulfur oxides represent about 60% of the emissions of that global sulfur oxides of transport vehicles. The amount of sulfur oxides emitted by the largest 15 ships in the global sea merchant fleet is equivalent to all the amount of oxides emitted from all cars in the world.

Disposal of ship waste by dumping it into sea ports and shipping lanes is also one of the sources of sea pollution. Ship waste includes: solid waste such as glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum, metal cans, tin and plastic. Such wastes make up what is called "maritime waste", which pose a grave threat to environment, sea organisms and human beings, and which cause death to the sea organisms by getting them fall into the trap of the plastic waste and garbage, or eat them. Although ships usually get rid of the solid waste by having them burned or recycled, 75% of ash resulting from the burning process is cast into the sea water, added to the aforesaid is that all solid wastes, such as iron and aluminum,

cannot be disposed of by burning.

In addition to the above, when filling ballast water tanks in ships with sea water, they carry with water the existing sea organisms existing in the water and transport them from one area to another, whereas discharge of ballast water would result in the spread of harmful algae and bacteria in the other areas of the sea, posing a serious risk to both environment and health. Scientists suggest that organisms transported by ballast water cause one of the worst cases of biological invasion which causes serious damage to ecosystems. For example, one type of jellyfish living on the United States coast moved through ballast water to the Valdes Peninsula in Argentina, resulting in an increasing number of jellyfish and a

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severe environmental imbalance in the region.

On the other hand, ships may cause noise pollution, which in turn causes disruption of sea organisms during movement or migration across seas and oceans, whereas their ability to track the correct destination across the sea by the magnetic field of the earth, or the use of sound waves to move towards its destination or get food, is negatively affected.

International conventions on pollution control

The Helsinki Convention of 1974 defined sea pollution as the act of human directly or indirectly by pumping materials, energy or any external factors into the sea environment, resulting to harmful effects to sea resources or the marine organisms, and prevention of the legitimate uses of the seas, or negative impact on the characteristics of the sea environment.

Among the most important international conventions on pollution control is: the Marpol Agreement signed in 1973 and amended in 1978, which includes the procedures and controls that eliminate dumping of waste and oil spill and burning exhaust into the sea. The primary stated goal of this Convention is the preservation of the marine environment by the complete elimination of pollution caused by oil spill and other harmful substances and reduction of the accidental discharge of these substances. The Convention entered into force as an international convention in 1983. By 2005, the convention had been signed by 136 countries. The Convention requires that all ships belonging to the states signatories raising the flags of these countries shall be subject to and comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the convention, regardless of where these ships could be in the sea.

It should be noted that the application of the Convention is not only limited to the pollution resulting from ships as contained in Annex (I) to the Convention, but it also addressed the harmful liquid substances such as chemicals which overloaded in huge quantities as stated in Annex (II); the harmful substances overloaded in packages wrapped as described in Annex (III), the discharge of sewage into the sea water as described in Annex (IV), and the general prohibition on the disposal of the residues from ships in the sea as described in Annex (V), while the disposal of plastic materials is subject to entire global ban, and later the international maritime Organization (IMO) added the sixth annex related to air pollution caused by ships. This Annex addresses air pollution caused by sulfur and nitrogen oxides, particulate substances, and others.

Marine Environmental Management Systems

Environmental management systems for sea ports aim

at reducing the negative environmental impacts resulting from the maritime transport and seaports activities, and improving the capacity and environmental potential in the field of port management and the prevention of pollution from ships and increase of environmental awareness. To achieve these aims, the ministries of the environment in different countries in cooperation with the authorities and bodies of sea ports set up a guiding manual for the application of the environmental management of sea ports systems.

This guiding manual usually includes measures for prevention of sea pollution. In accordance with the International Standards for Environmental Management (ISO 14001) for the application of the environmental management system integrated of solid waste, liquid, oil residues, and hazardous substances and materials in sea ports, and the environmental monitoring system for the quality of water, air and noise in the port area to follow up on its quality, and the methods and measures required to be followed to reduce and control them and its negative effects, as well as the environmental management system for the processes and activities exercises at all the sea port.

Also, guiding manual includes: the procedures necessary to eliminate and reduce pollution by oil spills, ballast water, sewage and solid waste produced by ships, and pollution by harmful liquid substances packaged in containers, and the models of international records and certificates required to be kept and maintained aboard the vessels which if not found would be punishable according to the international laws and conventions.

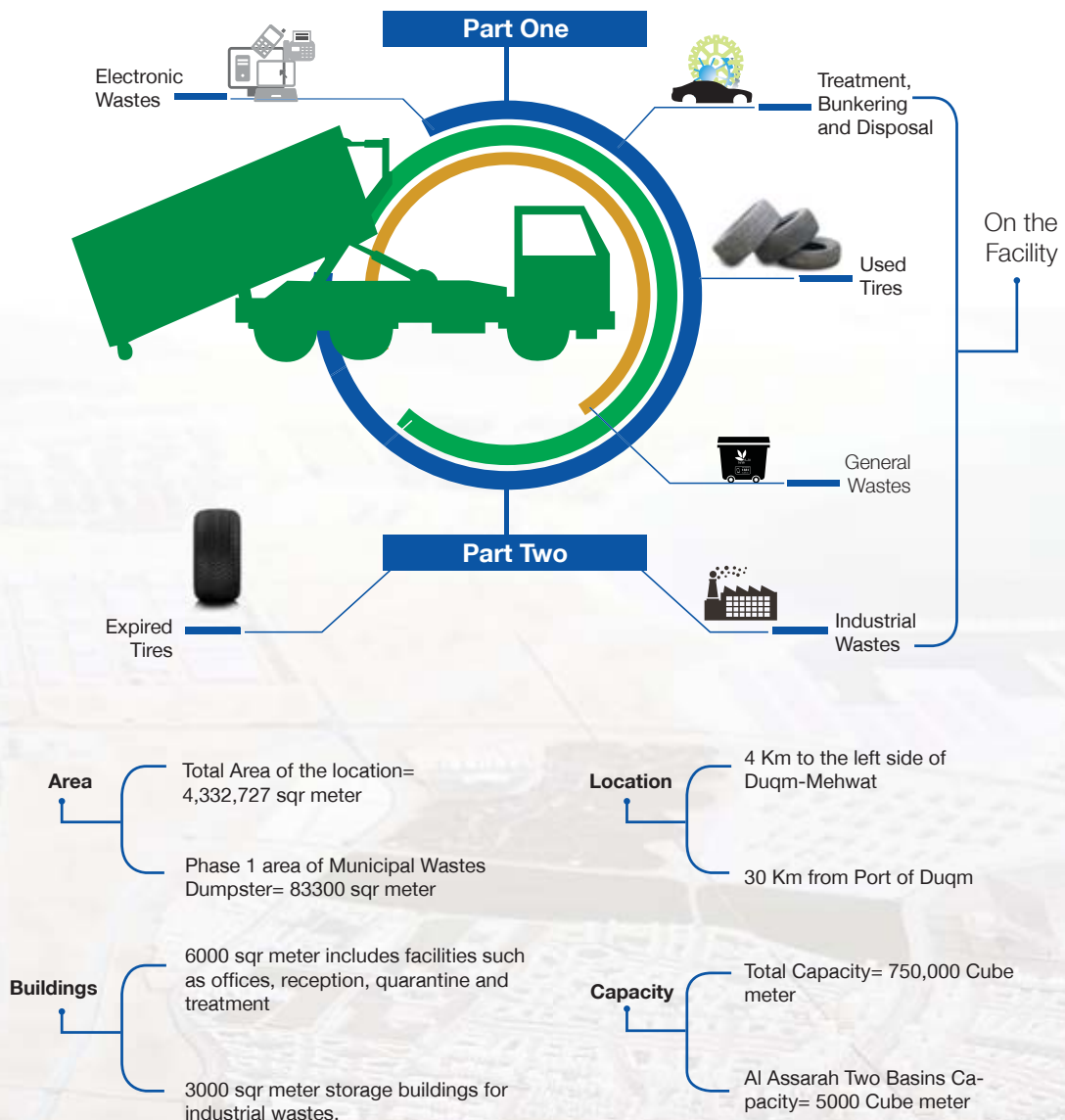
It can thus be concluded that the environment preservation system in sea ports aims at achieving the assurance of safety and cleanliness of the sea and land surfaces of the port area and assuring that they are not exposed to the various pollutants, and to secure them against the risks of environmental accidents, and to maintain the integrity of the atmospheric air of the port area from the air pollutants that are harmful to environment such as dust and dust particles and harmful gases and air suspended loads black smoke, and acid clouds, and achieving the safety and security of the port area against noise pollution.

It is also important that the port authorities are keen to maintain high - efficiency facilities for receiving waste and pollutants, including facilities for receiving ballast water, facilities for receiving sewage wastewater, and facilities for reception of the petroleum effects and the tanks washing wastes, and facilities for receiving solid waste, and facilities to received oil materials and petroleum sediments, provided that these facilities are in good operational condition.

Commencement of Operation of the Integrated Waste Management Facility in Duqm

The landfill is configured to receive and compile municipal solid waste and industrial waste, in order to protect terrestrial, air and aquatic environments, and to keep pace with the economic growth taking place in the region, as the most prominent targets

The design capacity of the landfill is 3.5 million tons with a construction cost was more than 7 million Omani Riyals



Duqm - الدقم :

The Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm announced on (1 May 2019) the commencement of operation of the integrated waste management facility located in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm, under the management of the Oman Environmental Services Holding Company ("Be'ah").

The Authority informed, through circular addressed to the enterprises working in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm, to direct their disposal trucks to dispose the waste in the new landfill facility which will operate daily from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to the collection standards of the municipal and industrial wastes adopted by Be'ah.

The integrated engineering landfill consists of several cells that can receive municipal solid, and industrial waste, as well have a number of administrative buildings and other facilities necessary for the operation of the landfill.

The landfill is designed to store and treat hazardous or non-hazardous solid waste. The design capacity of the landfill is 3.5 million tons, which meets the requirement of the Special Economic Zone of Duqm for the following 20 years. The construction cost was more than 7 million Omani Riyals.

The landfill is considered one of the important infrastructure facilities in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm which is established to protect terrestrial, air and aquatic environment and to cope up with the economic advancement in the region.

SEZAD organizes a promotional campaign in Russia



Moscow message
Mohammed Al Shezawi:

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, a promotional campaign at Duqm was launched in Moscow, and attended by Senator Moshe Chiliev, the senator of the Federal Council of Russia, his Excellency ambassador Yousuf bin Isa Al Zadjali, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Russian, Ilya Panteleev the Vice President of Marketing at the Russian Shipbuilding Company, Stolyarov Sergey Alekseevich the Deputy Director General of Development at Russian Railway Company and Vladimir Kononov, chief executive of the RUSNANO group that work at nanotechnology projects, and about 20 CEOs, as well as representatives of almost 80 other companies involved in industry, tourism and petrochemicals.

His Excellency Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri, Chairman of special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, confirmed that the promotional campaign comes in light of the seeking of the two

◆◆
Yahya Al-Jabri: The strategic location and political stability qualify Duqm to be a major center for trade and industry in the region

◆◆
The campaign targets large Russian companies and seeks to benefit from the growing economic relations between the two countries



The CEO of Oman Drydock Company during his presentation

The competent authorities in Russia support activities and initiatives that aimed at strengthening economic relations between the two countries



Yahya Al-Jabri delivers a speech

friendly countries to strengthen their economic relations, increase trade exchange and open wider horizons for Russian companies that wishing to invest in the special economic zone at Duqm, and he stressed that this campaign, which is the first of its kind in Russia comes in light of the remarkable demand of Russian companies to explore the Sultanate of Oman as a promising country and Duqm as a special economic zone, to be an ideal center for them to expand their business.

The two-day promotional campaign of Duqm in Russia came in the light of the seeking of the special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm In order to attract large Russian companies to invest in the region, and in view of the popularity of Duqm to invest by a number of companies from around the world. The promotional campaign in Russia is considered the second campaign of Duqm to be launched outside the Sultanate this year after the campaign that was held in Delhi, the past January. The campaign targeted a number of Russian companies specialized in the investment sectors in

Duqm, such as shipbuilding companies, technology parks, and major industrial companies.

Facilitating trade exchange

His Excellency Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri said in his speech at the opening of the symposium that held in Moscow that there are many initiatives put forward by the Sultanate to facilitate the trade exchange between Oman and Russia, such as the electronic visa service (E Visa) and Oman Air to conduct direct flights between Muscat and Moscow. His excellency commended the continuous support provided by the competent authorities in Russia for these activities, initiatives and mutual visits between government officials from both countries, and the numerous meetings that held in the Sultanate and Russia to promote economic relations between the two countries.

He also stressed in his speech the importance of special economic zone at Duqm as one of the main national strategies for economic diversification and encouraging the private sector for growing, and achieving balanced so-



An attendant asks the PowerPoint presenters



cial and economic development between the various governorates of the Sultanate confirming that the strategic location of Duqm coupled with the political stability that the Sultanate of Oman enjoyed by, qualify Duqm to be a major center for trade and industry in the region.

Various advantages

In his speech, al jabri highlighted the other advantages at Al- Duqm such as nearing to the Asian, African and GCC markets, Considering it as a catalyst and a major attraction for investors from around the world to establish their business in the area of Duqm.

His Excellency Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the special Economic Zone Authority at al Duqm, called on Russian companies to invest in Duqm, confirmed that the region has a good and encouraging infrastructure for investment such as the multi-purpose port of Duqm, dry dock for repair and maintenance of ships, Duqm airport and other infrastructure, in addition to the legislation encouraging investment adopted by the Authority. He called on businessmen in Russia to take advantage of the available invest-

ment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman in general and in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm in particular.

Visible presentations

The "Invest in Duqm" symposium witnessed a number of visual presentations from the public Authority for Investment promotion and export development (Ithraa) the special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, the Port of Duqm Company, the Oman Dry Dock Company and the Oman Oil Company. The presenters presented the available projects and services at Duqm, the potential of the region and the potential investment opportunities they can offer to Russian companies.

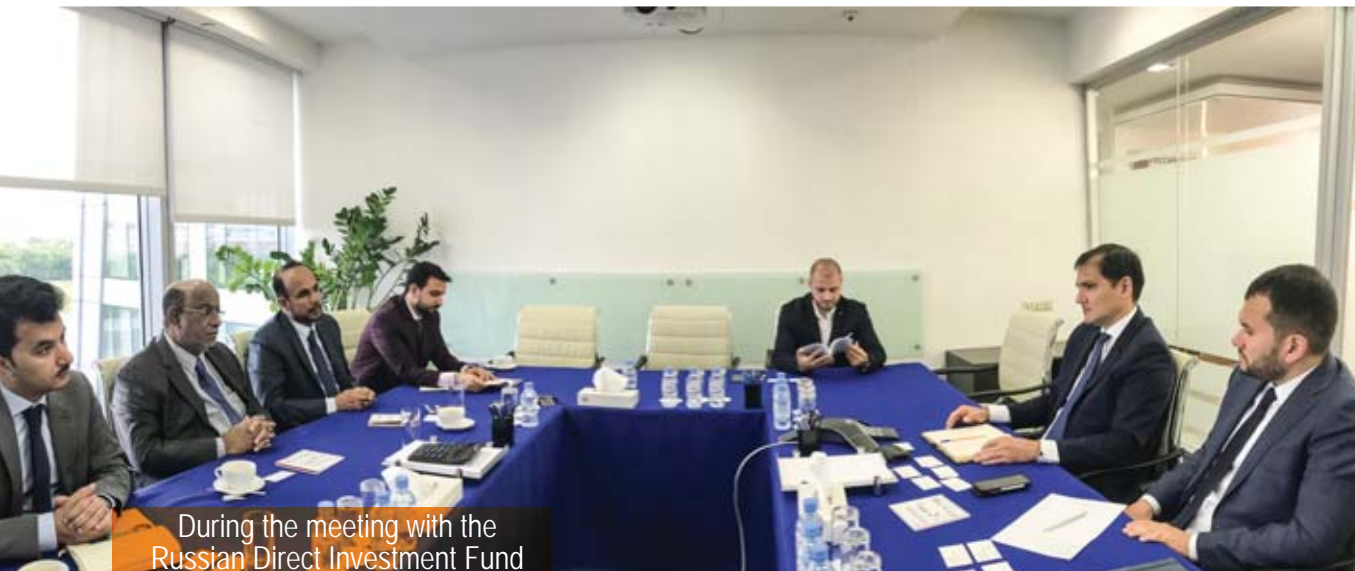
Bilateral meetings

The representatives of Ithraa, the special Economic Zone Authority at Port Duqm Company, Oman Dry Dock Company, Duqm Port Company Duqm, Duqm Quarries Company, held Bilateral meetings with representatives of Russian companies after the symposium, to inform them in detail about the available investment opportunities in the sectors in which they operate.

Focus on major industrial companies specialized in the fields of shipbuilding



PowerPoint presentations focus on the region and the potential of the opportunities available for Russian companies



During the meeting with the Russian Direct Investment Fund

Review of cooperation opportunities with financial institutions in Moscow

Yahya Al-Jabri invites the Russian Shipbuilding Company to invest in Duqm

The Russian Sovereign Fund expresses its readiness to finance Russian projects at Duqm

Moscow -  :

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) and Chair of the Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa) held a number of meetings with Russian government institutions and companies. The meetings aimed at attracting them to invest in the Sultanate in general and the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD) in particular. This was part of the promotional campaign held in the Russian capital Moscow.

He met with H.E. Alexei Rakhmanov, President of the Russian United Shipbuilding

Company. During the meeting, H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri presented the Russian official with an overview of SEZD and its infrastructure projects, especially the multi-purpose Port of Duqm and the current and future heavy industry projects there.

During the meeting, Al-Jabri also invited Rakhmanov to invest in the Sultanate in general and SEZD in particular, stressing that SEZAD will provide various facilities needed by the Russian giant company to invest in Duqm.

The Russian United Shipbuilding Company, established in 2007, is the largest shipbuilding company in Russia, which has about 40 shipyards with design offices and repair yards. It employs more than 95,000 workers.



Exchange of souvenirs with Rakhmanov

Review of the investment opportunities before the VTB Bank



And with officials from VTB Bank

Cooperation with the Russian Direct Investment Fund

Al-Jabri discussed opportunities for cooperation with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), a Russian sovereign fund that allocates 20% of its investments to projects outside Russia. HE briefed the RDIF officials on SEZD, its current projects and potentials, the investment environment and incentives provided by SEZAD and the elements of its success.

During the meeting, Al-Jabri stressed SEZAD keenness to increase investment in Duqm and attract Russian companies to invest in it. He reviewed a number of projects implemented in SEZD, such as Duqm Refinery, the Sino-Omani Industrial City, Small India Project and many other projects.

For his part, Tagir Sitdekov, First Deputy CEO of the Fund, gave an overview of RDIF and its investments inside and outside Russia. He pointed out that RDIF has joint investments in Russia in cooperation with several GCC countries.

Sitdekov stressed during the meeting the readiness of RDIF to finance Russian projects in SEZD.

Meeting with VTB Bank

H.E. Yahya bin Said Al-Jabri also met with a number of officials from VTB Bank Group, which consists of more than 20 credit institutions and financial companies that facilitate international partnerships and encourage Russian companies to invest abroad.

During the meeting, they discussed the investment opportunities that the bank can finance in SEZD. Al-Jabri presented the officials of the VTB Group an idea about SEZD and current and future projects therein. He also urged the Russian Financial Group to contribute to the financing of investment projects in SEZD.

The promotional campaign in Moscow was well received by Russian companies attending the "Invest in Duqm" seminar. During bilateral meetings with representatives of Omani companies working in Duqm, they expressed their desire to know more about the Omani market and its investment opportunities.

The campaign, which took place from 13 to 15 June, is part of SEZAD quest to explore the Russian market and present Duqm to the Russian business community as a promising region offering good investment opportunities for the Russian companies.

Meetings with the Russians addressing the aspirations of the Authority to attract Russian companies

Al-Duqm being introduced to the Russian business community as a promising area for Russian investments



Part of the bilateral meetings between representatives of Omani companies and Russian companies



SEZAD signs 6 agreements to upgrade infrastructure efficiency

Implementation of land settlement in the logistics area of the port



Signed with Lal Bakhsh and Voltas Engineering Company

Muscat - :

His Excellency Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri , Chairman of Board of Directors of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm on Thursday (May 9th, 2019) , signed six (6) agreements in the field of infrastructure for the special economic zone of DuqmF; he has signed an agreement with Al Bustan Construction Company for the implementation of land leveling works in the logistics area (A) Port of Duqm , and an agreement with A.A.W. Consulting Engineers company in order to provide consultancy services for designing and supervision of the execution of the internal roads project in the Rocks Garden, and an agreement with Koonsir and Co. to provide consultancy services for the design and supervision of the implementation of the second package of the double road project of Sultan Saeed bin Ti-amor (National Road No. 32 in Duqm).

His Excellency also signed an agreement with the National Engineering Office to provide consultancy services for designing and supervision of the implementation of a road linking between Duqm airport to the Ra's Markaz.

The signed agreements included also designing and constructing of sewage treatment plant in Duqm, which

will be implemented by Lal Bakhsh and Voltas Engineering and Trading Services Company. Meanwhile, His Excellency the chairman of the Board of Directors of the special economic zone at Duqm signed an agreement with Grand Enterprises Co. for management, operation and maintenance of lighting posts in Duqm, whereas the agreement provides that a store will be established for maintaining the equipment and tools for the project.

Land Leveling Works at Duqm port

The agreement signed with Al Bustan Construction Company provides for leveling of land in the logistics area (A) located in Duqm port with an area of 5.5 hectares. The project is considered the second stage whereas the first phase started by leveling 65 hectares of the land in the logistics area in Port of Duqm,

Providing consultancy services for 51-km Duqm Airport Road to Ras Markaz



Exchange the documents with the National Engineering Office



Signed with Al Bustan Construction Company

with a total area of about 1,000 hectares. The logistics zone is witnessing an increasing demand from investors due to its proximity to the commercial pier at the Port of Duqm.

The project is scheduled to be completed within 110 days.

The inner roads in the neighborhood rock garden

The agreement signed with A.A.W. Consulting Engineers Company envisages the implementation of the design and supervision works for internal roads with a length of (13) km linking to the parking areas (34000) square meters in the rock garden district of Duqm, which is one of the new commercial neighborhoods in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and is witnessing an increasing demand from investors to construct commercial and residential buildings in the area.

The agreement provides for the implementation of design services within 5 months and supervision services within 18 months plus two weeks for preparation.

The second package of Sultan Said bin Taimur Road

The agreement signed with Conseer & Co. provides for consultancy services for the design and supervision of implementing the second package of the dual-way Sultan Said bin Taimur Road, with a length of 14 km.

The signing of the agreement comes within the efforts of the Special Economic Zone Authority in order to increase the efficiency of roads in the Special Economic Zone and qualify the roads to cope with the economic growth of the region. The road serves many industrial

zones.

The design services will be implemented within 10 months while the supervisory services will take 30 months in addition to two weeks for preparations.

The Road from Duqm Airport to the Ras Markaz

Signing of the consultancy services agreement for the design and supervision of the implementation of the road project linking Duqm Airport to Ras Markaz comes to cope with the expected growth in the region especially after establishing the oil storage plant at Ras Markaz which will link be linked to the transfer line to transport the crude oil from the storage plant to Duqm refinery with a length of 80 km.

The planned road extending from Duqm airport to Ras Markas is 51 km.

The design services will be carried out within 10 months while the supervisory services within 48 months, plus one month of preparation.

Sewage Treatment Plant

The signed agreements included the design and construction of sewage treatment plant in Duqm. According to these agreements, the company executing the project will perform the works of designing, engineering, construction, installation and commissioning of equipment, operation and delivery of the station as per the approved specifications. The first phase of the station has a capacity of 2500 cubic meters per day. It operates by a Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR). The plant will be executed within 24 months from the date of awarding.

Establishment of an additional sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 2500 cubic meters

The implementation of internal roads in rock garden neighborhood and the second package of the double road of Sultan Said bin Taimor

34,000 square meters of parking space to keep pace with the commercial growth in the Rock Garden neighborhood



Signed an agreement with Grand Enterprises Co



Signed with A.A.W. Consulting Engineers Company



"Little India" is a -600,000 Sq Mtrs integrated tourism project located on the sea front in the Duqm

Commencing the Project Construction Works of "Little India"

Mr. Pradeep-kumar Nair :
Injecting an investment of \$750 Million over a 10-year Period

The Project will include hotels, Commercial Complex, beach front villas, and Sea Facing Apartment units ready for free-hold ownership

Duqm - Saleh Al Maamari

June 2019 marks the Inauguration and commencement of the construction works for Little India Project, an Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC) located on a total area of 600,000 sq. meters in Duqm Special Economic Zone, the Project includes a 5-star hotel, 4- star resort, a marina, commercial and residential complexes that include villas and apartment units for lease or freehold ownership.

To get ourselves acquainted with the Project details, we had an interview with Mr. Pradeep-kumar Nair; a Serial Indian Entrepreneur who will make an investment in SEZD, the success achieved by Sebacic Oman Bio-Refinery, in which Mr Nair is an investor along with Omani Partner Shaikh Hilal bin Khalid Al Maawali, played a role in the process of attracting him to invest in another remarkable project which is an Integrated Tourism Complex known as "Little India".

I met with the Indian investor; Mr. Pradeepkumar Nair; the CEO of Little India LLC, in the morning of a sunny day, though moderate, we headed for Project "Little India" which occupies a distinguished location in the Tourist Zone and enjoys an exciting view overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Volume of Investment

While we were roaming all over the Project land, Mr. Nair said: we are expecting that the investments will reach about \$750 Mil which will be injected in the project over a 10-15 years period. He added also that: The Project avail the luxury residence solutions, lease and free hold ownership in Duqm. Recently, we are

in the process of construction a 4- star resort overlooking the Arab Sea, which will mark the starting point for the Project.

He further added that: The Project will procure a number of villas, chalets and apartment units ready for lease on freehold title basis, while the large beach front villas and real estates that overlooking the Arabian Sea will be ready for purchase only.

During our tour in the Project, Mr. Nair said: the area allocated for the Integrated Tourism and Residence Project, which we are implementing on phases, is nearly 600,000 sq. meters; he continued saying that: the Project includes the construction of a complex of apartment units comprising of 150 units which we have named "The Pearl". We have commenced the Earth works and land leveling, it is prospected to be finished in late 2020.

Expansion of the Green Landscape!

While exploring the Project, Mr. Nair pointed to a site among constructions and said: here the area will be planted with trees covering the largest possible area of the allocated Project land with green grass, to give a better esthetic and green impression for our visitors and guests, on the other hand, we shall construct walkways and stairs to reach the marine walkway platform intended to be built on the sea to allow the visitor or the guest to enjoy the view of the sea, The developer and designers took in consideration the topography, nature and serenity of the spot, and we will preserve the esthetics of the place through formalistic





touches and artistic sculptures.

Mr. Nair said: the place has a unique sea view; the matter that has prompted us utilize this site by creating a natural creek (khawr), by means of dredging one of the lowest locations by the sea that allows water to easily flow into the land to form a natural creek to surround some sites within the Project. Furthermore, we will build walkways and overwater bridges, we shall also create some touristic and marine activities in cooperation with the local community of Duqm.

Tourist Restaurant

We ascended over a highland overlooking the sea. Mr. Nair said: herein .. a tourist restaurant will be built, the visitor can enjoy a unique atmosphere while having the most delicious sea and international foods and enjoy listening to the fascinating music.

Sundry Activities

When we have inquired: Do you think that the tourism movement will increase after completion of Project "Little India"? Mr. Nair answered: Yes, We think this will happen. This is the main reason why we started with the resort first.

We have planned for many sport and marine activities to enhance tourism in the region; we have planned to form an alliance with the local fishermen to take the tourists on their boat for a fishing and local food and Omani hospitality experience. I promise to cooperate with the local community that will be an essential component of this orientation.

Allocation of Units for Free Hold Ownership

During the interview, Mr. Pradeepkumar Nair noted that the Project "Little India" has allocated a number of residential units of free hold ownership for investors of various nationalities, who are willing to buy the same. Omani Residency can be availed by the investors in Little India. He further added that: we will promote and market this Project in the next period via posting advertisements in India, on the Social media and e-publishing sites and we will



Pradeepkumar Nair

sponsor sport events in Muscat to be mainly organized for that purposes.

Duqm is a Favorable Destination for All !!

I asked him: What category of tourists you are targeting at Duqm? He replied saying that: we are going to promote Duqm as a favourable destination for two categories of tourists; the first will be the local tourists and travelers from Muscat to Salalah, the second will be the tourists worldwide; also we are aiming at attracting tourists for medical tourism, given that the resort will have a medical center for rehabilitation and post-surgery healthcare recovery, as well as recreational and leisure tourism.

Investment Opportunities

Before finally concluding our tour, I asked him: how he views Duqm? he answered: according to my experience I was the first one to come in Duqm. I found immense Positive Energy in the area, and after the success of Sebacic Oman Bio-Refinery Project in Duqm, I believe that the zone is progressively growing, and the Omani Government is seriously keen to create new investment opportunities here. It has paved the way through the tireless and determined efforts and endeavors of SEZAD that offers wonderful benefits, privileges and incentives for investors, built the basic infrastructures with highways and other facilities for the zone to grow and flourish. Duqm will be an icon being discovered now, but soon the Best modern city in Gulf.

Construction of a marine platform and expansion of the green landscape on a largest possible area in the Project

Making a large creek (Khawr) surrounds some of the Project's structures with walkways and overwater bridges

Creating new marine and touristic activities in collaboration with the local community in Duqm

We shall focus on promoting Duqm as a favorable destination for tourists from the Sultanate of Oman and Abroad

Foray into to a medical, rehabilitation and post-surgery Healthcare Center alongwith Recreation, leisure tourism is Planned



New Projects Established on an area of 110 thousands Sq. Meter

Signing 6 Usufruct Contract Agreements of Lands Allocated for the Port of Duqm



Establishment of multipurpose warehouses at the Port Logistics Area

Support of Import- Export business and avail spaces for storage of cold items

Muscat - :

Port of Duqm Company signed 6 Usufruct Contract Agreements at the Logistic and Industrial Lands allocated to the Port for number of local and international investors.

Reggy Vermeulen; Port of Duqm CEO, has signed the Agreements for and on behalf of Port of Duqm Company (PDC) and Duqm Industrial Land Company (DILC).

The first four agreements are relevant to Usufruct subcontracts for the Logistic Area at Port of Duqm in a total area of around 70 thousands Sq. Meter, usufruct lease term lasts for 24 years.

Conclusion of Agreements at the Logistic Land

The First Agreement, signed with Jibal Investment Co. LLC. was concluded for the construction of multipurpose warehouses equipped



with services on an area of 17 thousands Sq. Meter, the invested value is estimated at approx. 1 Mil and 600 thousands Omani Riyal.

The Second Agreement that was signed with 3 Dimension Engineering Services Co, concerns with the lease of a plot of land located





ed at the Logistic Area at the Port of Duqm, for the construction of multipurpose storage facility for the storage of cold materials, and to procure open and closed areas for different logistic operations, the project will be established on an area of 20 thousands Sq. Meters.

The Third Agreement was concluded with Ocean Real Estate Investments LLC. for the construction of multipurpose warehouses utilized mainly for the Import - Export business in the region, the project area is estimated at 10 thousands Sq. Meters.

The Logistic area at Port of Duqm is approximately 1000 Hectare, it is located in the proximity of the Port Commercial Docking Area.

Investment in the Industrial Zone

The fifth and sixth agreement were signed with Al Hana Engineering Company and Mohamed Jama Esmail Trading Company (MJET), the two agreement cover investment in the Industrial Zone at the Port of Duqm, the total area of the Industrial areas that cover the two agreements is estimated at 40 thousands Sq. Meter; the two companies intend to construct their own manufacturing units to manufacture and install steel structure and tanks for liquids with a lease term of 25 years.

Mohamed Basheer, the Chairman of Al Hana Engineering Industrials Co. stated that he expects that there will be significant commercial potentials and capabilities ensuing from multiple projects currently under construction, or to be implemented in the near future at SEZAD,

the matter that will help the company achieve true value on their investments in the zone.

Mr. Mohamed Jama Bait Ishaq the CEO of (MJET) said that Duqm Industrial Lands Company has assigned an industrial land with an area covering a plain 30 thousands Sq. Meters at the project site, this will assist the company perform its activities in a more flexible and smooth way; adding that the company's project at Duqm shall create 30 Job Opportunities in the year 2019, this number is prospected to rise in the future.

The area of the Industrial and Logistic lands, leased for the six companies that have signed the agreements is estimated at 10 thousands Sq. Meters.

Reggy Vermeulen; the CEO of the Port of Duqm Company, stated that the Company is committed to provide continuous support to its clients in the preparation of their projects for the purpose of providing the best experience and value for the clients out of these agreements. He added that the Industrial Zone is increasingly developing as an industrial investment hub at Duqm.

It is worth noting that the Government has granted for Duqm Industrial Land Company (DILC), a Port of Duqm affiliate company, a usufruct right to use Industrial Lands. The Company is bestowed with the right to develop, lease, manage, operate, and market around 2000 Hectares of industrial lands located within the SEZAD. These lands will be allocated for various industrial activities.



Construction of manufacturing and installation units for steel structures and liquid materials tanks

Reggy Vermeulen: the Industrial Zone is increasingly growing to be an industrial and investment hub in Duqm

Award integrated FEED for Petrochemicals complex in Duqm and Gas Extraction facility

Dr. Salim Al Huthaili: The project maximizes the utilization of refinery products and strengthens its competitive position in the energy market

NGL plant will be located in the concession areas in central Oman and connected with OGC's gas network

7550 workers at the project site and completion rate of 22% by the end of June



Muscat - :

Duqm Refinery and Petrochemicals Industries Company (DRPIC) has announced the award for the Front End Engineering Design (FEED) work to commence for its Petrochemicals complex to Wood UK. The FEED services include also the NGL Extraction facility in central Oman and the 230 km pipeline from concession areas to the Petrochemicals complex in Duqm that falls under Oman Oil and Orpic scope. Technology selection and award of the multiple licensed units for the Petrochemical Complex will complete in the early stage of FEED.

Dr. Salim Al Huthaili, Chief Executive Officer

of DRPIC, said: "The award of FEED contracts came after a rigorous competitive tendering process. This key milestone enable Duqm Refinery to maximize the value of the refinery products and enhance its market competitiveness. This project is our further contribution to the Omani economy and will allow us to deliver against our strategic objective to ensure a sustainable and economic prosperity for both Oman and our shareholders."

The Duqm Petrochemical Project (DPP) is the second stage of the integrated refinery and petrochemical complex planned by Duqm Refinery which comes as part of the strategic partnership between Oman Oil Company and Kuwait Petroleum International. The project will be located in the Special Economic Zone





in Duqm (SEZAD) exploiting the established infrastructure and facilities in the zone.

NGL extraction unit

Oman Oil and Orpic will take lead in developing the NGL extraction unit and required pipeline. NGL plant will be located in the concession areas in central Oman and connected with OGC's gas network. A pipeline will be constructed to transport NGL stream from the NGL extraction plant to the petrochemical complex.

a mixed-feed Steam Cracker


At the center of the project is a mixed-feed Steam Cracker with a capacity of 1,600 KTPA ethylene processing selected Duqm Refinery product streams; Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Full Range Naphtha (FRN), off gases and Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) extracted from natural gas available in Central Oman.

Production of new materials in local market

The project proposes to produce new products for the first time in Oman such as Ethylene Glycols, Oxo Chemicals, Butadiene and increase the diversity of the existing petrochemical portfolio in Oman. The expected polyethylene and polypropylene grades produced by DPP would both differentiate and complement the current shareholder product portfolio.

The diverse DPP products provide building blocks for a vast variety of value-added products, which in turn provide a foundation for downstream industries/projects within SEZAD, Oman and beyond, offering the potential to attract foreign direct investment and support domestic growth.

Construction work of the Duqm Refinery project is progressing steadily across all three EPC packages with project progress estimated at nearly 22% complete.


The project is
a mixed-feed
Steam Cracker
with a capacity of 1,600
KTPA ethylene processing
selected Duqm
Refinery



SEZAD decides to increase the depth of the Fishing Port to be 10 Meters

Construction works accelerating ... 500 people are working to accomplish the achievement

Increase the economic value of the port and prepare it to attract fishing vessels operating on the high seas

Muscat - :

Yahya bin Said al-Jabri, Chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority of Duqm (SEZAD), announced that SEZAD has decided to increase the depth of the fishing port by 10 meters instead of 6 meters in order to prepare the port to attract large fishing vessels operating on the high seas, in addition to increasing the economic value of the port, which will become the first port in the Sultanate to reach that depth.

In an exclusive interview with Oman News Agency (ONA), published in June 2019, SEZAD Chairman said that the decision comes in line with the development of commercial fishing in the world, adding that the depth of the harbor is in line with the requirements of this sector as there are ships equipped for fishing purposes or for the purposes of exporting fish,

which need a basin deeper than 6 meters, thus comes the idea of increasing the basin depth to 10 meters.

He stressed that SEZAD is working to make the fishing harbor in Duqm one of the regional ports capable of providing the various services needed by the large fishing vessels and thus contributing to enhancing the performance of the fish industries near the harbor, which aims to make Duqm a key centre for fish industries in the Sultanate.

The fishing harbor of Duqm is currently witnessing an acceleration in its construction operations and the number of employees at the site is about 500 people. It is expected that the harbor will be ready by the end of next year or the beginning of 2021.

Economic importance

Yahya bin Said al-Jabri touched on the economic importance of the fishing harbor



A number of factories under construction in the fisheries industry



in Duqm. He said that the fishing harbor of Duqm is one of the most important components of the special economic zone of Duqm. He added that the fisheries sector in Duqm is one of the most promising sectors in the region, as the region has a large stock of fish wealth that contributes to the supply of other sectors in the region and the revitalization of the economic movement. He added, "Therefore, since the beginning of the planning of the economic zone, the government has endeavored to establish a fishing harbor and a nearby fish industries area, that's concerned with the fishery industries so that the harbor and the region will activate all services related to fish wealth."

Comparative advantage of the port

On the relative advantage of the port, HE Yahya bin Saeed Al Jabri said that the fishing port in Duqm is characterized by the strategic

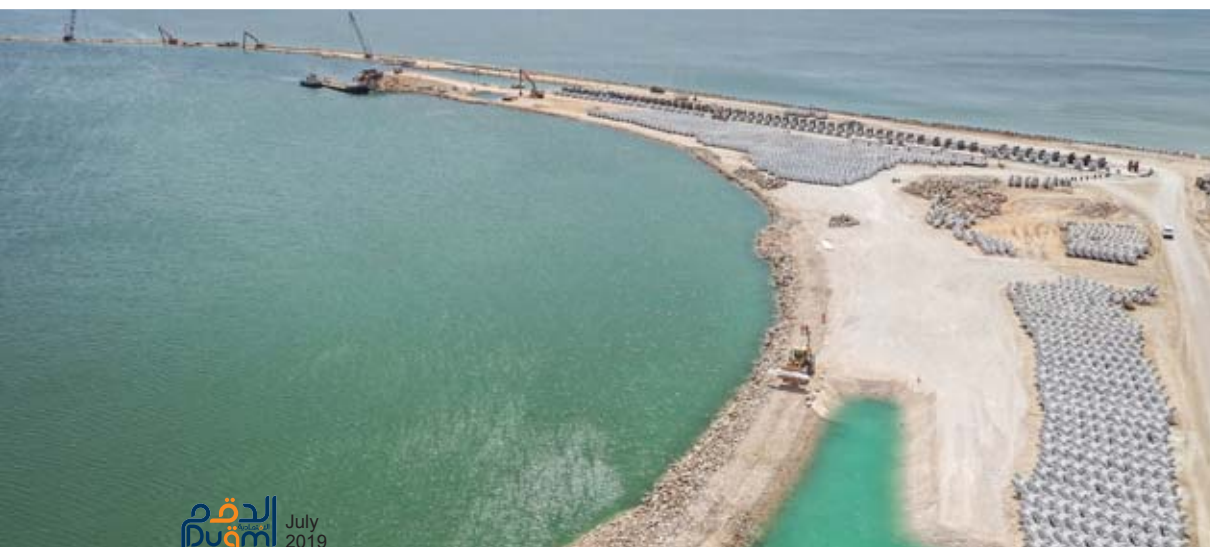
location overlooking the Arabian Sea, open to the Indian Ocean, area known by the abundance and diversity of fish. Large amounts of fish have not yet been exploited due to traditional fishing. He explained that the deepening of the port basin to 10 meters will contribute to providing the needs required by commercial fishing in deep water, and it enables fishermen and investors to obtain large amounts of commercial fishing.

Investment projects

On a question related to the investment projects that will be established in the fisheries industry, Yahya bin Said al- Jabri said, " The region is witnessing a good interest from investors and there is an acceleration of investment in the region despite the lack of readiness of the fishing harbor. " He pointed out that the number of existing factories is 4 factories, 3 of them have already started production and the

The port is strategically located on the Arabian Sea and in an area known by the abundance and diversity of fish

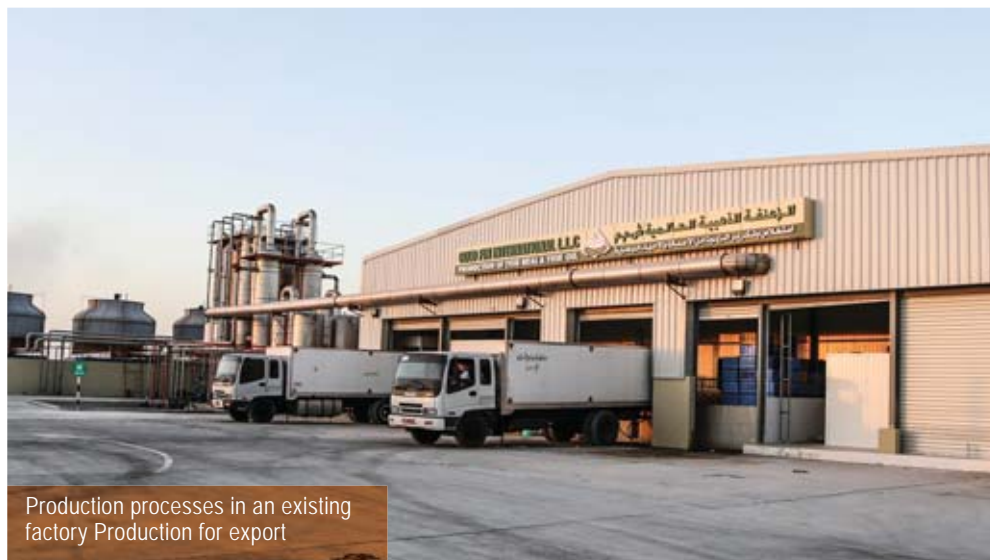
Attracting factories specializing in sardine, fodder, fish oil and fish packaging





Meet the needs of local fishermen and encourage them to expand their businesses and move to commercial fishing

forth one will be operational during the current year. He added that there are 4 other factories under construction, in addition to 12 companies that have signed usufruct agreements with SEZAD to establish specialized factories for sardine, feed, fish oil and fish packaging industries.



Under the Name "Duqm Fishery Investment"

A Consortium of 3 Omani Companies Sets up a New Firm for Investment in the Fishery Sector at Duqm



Muscat -

A Consortium of 3 Omani Companies declare the establishment of a new firm for investment in the Fishery Sector at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) under the name "Duqm Fishery Investment Company" which shall have its registered office located at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

The Memorandum of Association Agreement of the new firm was signed by Mr. Salim bin Yasser Al Sulaimani; in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer "CEO" of Oman Company for the Development of Special Economic Zone at AL Duqm (SAOC) (Tatweer Duqm), Eng. Saleh bin Mohamed Al Shanfari; in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of Oman Food Investment Holding Company, Dr. Khalid bin Mansour Al Zadjali; in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of Oman Fisheries Co. S.A.O.G, Tatweer Duqm owns 55% of the new

firm's share capital, whereas the remaining percentage is allocated equally for the other two companies.

The Articles of Association of Duqm Fishery Investment Co. provides for investment in projects related to fishery investment in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, export & import activities, signing contracts with companies for management and operation of the Fishery Harbor at Duqm.

The newly established firm shall run its activities in accordance with Commercial Companies Law and relevant laws applicable in SEZD jurisdiction.

The Signing ceremony of the newly established firm Memorandum of Association was attended H.E. Yahya bin Said Al Jabri; The Chairman of SEZAD, Dr. Rashid bin Salim Al Masrouri; The Chairman of Oman Food Investment Holding Company, Dr. Ismael bin Ahmed Al Balushi; The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SEZAD.


The newly established firm scope of business includes import, export business, signing contracts with companies for the management and operation of Al Duqm Fishery Harbor

SEZAD affirms enhancing the contribution of SMEs to regional development projects

Muscat -

SEZAD issued a decision confirming the enhancement of the contribution of the Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the SEZD development projects.

This came out of the keenness of the SEZAD and its follow-up and encouragement to SMEs operating in the SEZD to benefit from the available investment opportunities. SEZAD or the companies in which the SEZAD contributes by 50% ensure that the contracts to which it is a party, stipulates that the implementing companies shall allocate 10% at least of the total value of the work assigned to SMEs.

The decision of the SEZAD, stipulates that the Partnership and Development Department shall prepare a list stating the names and sufficient data for SMEs registered in the commercial register in the region, which have entrepreneurs card willing to be assigned with the works. Provided, they shall be classified according to technical competence, financial ability and previous ex-

perience. The Department must update data and classification periodically.

The decision stipulates that the works tender documents that will be assigned to SMEs must be included and the standard for assigning the works to SMEs must be taken into account when analyzing tenders, as one of the criteria to be relied upon at the tender evaluation stage.

For equal opportunities for all, the SEZAD's Partnership and Development Department must coordinate with the implementing companies to select the SMEs to which the business will be assigned from among those recorded in the register. It must also follow up the compliance of the implementing companies with 10% allocated for the SMEs.

The decision stipulated that the implementing companies should submit a detailed report to the Partnership and Development Department once it has completed its assigned work, including the works assigned to the SMEs in application of the provisions of this decision.

The decision included several details that meet the aspirations of SMEs, and under this decision were repealed two similar decisions issued in 2016 and 2017.

Renaissance Village Duqm Increase its Capacity up to 18655 Beds



Muscat - :

Renaissance Village Duqm reported that it has surpassed the equilibrium point and is heading to gain profits in its first year of operation with full capacity.

Samir G. Fansy, The Chairman of Renaissance Services SAOG, said that the company has increased the total capacity of Renaissance Village Duqm from 16960 to 18655 beds, pointing out that forecasts indicate that demand shall exceed this capacity by the end of this year; a matter incited the company to consider additional expansion plans.

In the current year 1st Quarter report of Renaissance Services Group, he added that Renaissance Village

Duqm gained appreciation as a unique project that can fulfill the global requirements in terms of Workers accommodation of high standards and affordable prices which ensure competitiveness and contribute to providing a decent and safe settling for resident workers with families, offering them a living style far better than that of temporary labour camps.

Also, he referred in the report to the local appreciation the Village has gained, indicating that Renaissance Village Duqm has won Omani two categories MEED 2019 awards, these are: "Best Residential Project for the Year 2019", and "Best Social, Cultural and Heritage Project of the Year 2019". Also, the Village gained Al Roya Economic Award for "Best Large Private Sector Project."

To be Commissioned in 2021

The Setup of a Bunker Terminal at the Port of Duqm

Muscat - :

In June 2019, Oman Oil Marketing Company has signed the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) Contract for the construction of a Bunker Terminal at Port of Duqm which will be executed by Towell Engineering Services Company (TESCO) in its capacity as the main contractor for the Project.

This bunker terminal will supply marine fuels of required grades to ships in and around the port. The bunker terminal will serve enhance the portfolio of services available to attract ships to Duqm and thus contribute to the port's growth and business development. The Duqm Bunker Terminal Project will be commissioned early 2021.

Oman Oil Marketing Company has provided bunker-



ing services in the Port of Duqm since 2014.; the Terminal is an integrated commercial service station to supply ships with fuel at Port of Duqm, the construction of which came as part of the Oman Oil Marketing Company efforts to expand scope of bunkering services at the marine logistic hubs in the Sultanate.



Group photo with the winner team

Fierce Competition Among the Teams participating in the 2nd Ramadan Tournament at Duqm

Duqm -  :

The 2nd Ramadan Tournament held in SEZAD witnessed a fierce competition between 16 teams from companies working in SEZAD and the local teams in the governorate.

The tournament was organized by SEZAD Partnership & Development Directorate in collaboration with Serka Taahhut Insaat A.S. and Duqm Development Company, the Tournament drew a considerable societal attendance and interaction.

Duqm youth team won, for the second consecutive time, the championship cup, after beating in the final match with one clean goal the competitor Al Shuwaier youth team.

In the conclusion of the tournament Dr. Ismael bin Ahmed Al Balaushi; the acting CEO of SEZAD has honored the three winning teams: Duqm Youth Team; the first place winner, Al Shuwaier Youth team the runner, and SEZAD Youth Team (B), came in the third place, after the withdrawal of Hitham Youth Team from competing for this position. The sponsor has also honored the supporting companies,



the organizers and the contributors on their contributions to make this tournament successful.

It is worth mentioning that SEZAD is extremely eager or interested to organize such activities during the holy month of Ramadan as part of its Ramadan plans and programs that aim at supporting such activities, sport cultural and youth contests, in addition to the realization of communications and synergy between the organizations working at the region and the local community.



The First International School set to open at Special Economic Zone at Duqm from Next Academic Year 2019- 20



Senior Management of the School stated that we anticipate to welcome more than 150 pupils during 1st academic year (2019-20) of the school

Muscat -

A'soud Global School (AGS) has announced the opening of Duqm branch in the port town of Oman in a centrally located area of Special Economic Zone at Duqm in Rock Garden District from next academic year 2019-20. The school construction is in full swing and going as per schedule to open the school from September 2019 which will mark the establishment of first international in Duqm.

The school shall be marked as a new addition to the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) among the most anticipated project to meet the expectations and aspirations of residents of Duqm offering an international standards education in a large educational facility. This will be a major attraction for those working in Duqm and planning to bring their families to Duqm.

The announcement of the School comes at the right time in line with the directive of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) to make the Economic Zone at Duqm more favorable destination for living, investment and to work.

The Spokesperson of the school management stated: AGS Duqm will be the first school of its kind

in the Al-Wusta region, and will offer innovative Cambridge international curriculum to pupils belonging to different nationalities in the vicinity. In its first phase, the school will be admitting pupils from Kindergarten (KG1) to Grade 5; in subsequent years the school will grow to an Upper Preparatory and Senior School preparing pupils for the IGCSE.

Inspired by the phenomenal success of its previous schools in Muscat, the group decided to open a branch of A'soud Global School in Duqm; with the prime objective of playing a major role in developing the educational ecosystem of the area, by providing quality education to the children of those working in the port town. The school will bring families and companies together for the betterment of the community by fulfilling educational needs and requirements.

In an interview with Duqm Economist magazine, the Spokesperson of the School management stated the school can admit more than 200 students from the first year of operation and projecting to enroll more than 150 pupils according to a Feasibility study and the Field Survey conducted by the company in Duqm prior and during the school's planning stage. It also expected to rise tremendously in coming years with the ever progressing and thriving of business and investment opportunities available in the zone.





A'soud Global School Duqm set to welcome pupils from September 2019

The Spokesperson of the school management stated that the project construction works for phase-1 shall be completed by August 2019 to commence the classes from September. The phase-1 of the school building comprising of ground and first floor to offer various facilities such as spacious and stimulating classrooms, outdoor multi-games courts, swimming and splash pools, a football pitch, an indoor multi-purpose sports hall, a library, ICT room, art and drama room, and laboratories. The registration process for the admission is already started and the school management urged to parents to start registering their children instead of waiting till the school building completes to enable a proper operational plans for the pupils enrolled for different grades.

He further added that Phase 2 of the Project will commence through the next two years, which will include the completion of the remaining parts of the school building with the addition of another floor, as well as the construction other student facilities as per the demands and requirements.

The area allocated for the School by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) is estimated at 15 thousand sq. meters, and it is located in the vicinity of Say village in Rock garden district at the center of Al Duqm Town.

While speaking to us, the Spokesperson of the School management has also touched upon the Teaching Staff, pointing out that the Teaching Staff are being selected from various nationalities to offer a true international education to the pupils expect-

ed from various nationalities. He also informed that the School is committed to deliver innovative British International curriculum similar to the Muscat school as per Cambridge International Curriculum. The school will nurture excellence while keeping in mind the culture and tradition of the Sultanate. It will offer pupils a vibrant and challenging learning environment, rich array of resources with a distinctive independent school style that reflects the values and dynamic culture of the Sultanate of Oman. With a team of experienced British, International and Arabic teaching and support staff, the school will develop independent and creative minds; with the aim to equip pupils with the capability of achieving their aspirations - both academically and morally. This will go a long way in enabling students to respond to the rapidly changing world in which they will pursue further study and work in the time to come.

The Spokesperson of the School management while concluding his speech, has praised and paid tribute to the facilities, services and sustainable efforts rendered by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) to the investors. He also added the eagerness and keenness to render the business development and promotion efforts in the Zone are praiseworthy and successful. Extolling the mega government projects that are implemented in the economic zone such as Duqm Refinery, Port of Duqm, Oman Drydock, and expansions in the other utility projects; stating that these projects shall contribute to the thriving of business and growth of population in the Zone.

The team of teachers are from diverse nationalities to offer a truly international teaching to pupils of various nationals in Duqm

In its first phase, the school will be admitting pupils from Kindergarten (KG1) to Grade 5; in subsequent years the school will grow to an Upper Preparatory and Senior School preparing pupils for the IGCSE





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



***Successes achieved
by Duqm, as a
developmental
economic project,
cannot be limited
in one project only,
as Prot of Duqm,
Dry Dock, Refinery
of Duqm, Industrial
China Town or other
projects***

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The Driver of Duqm Development will never stop

When the orders of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said were issued in 2008 for the expansion of the port of Duqm and turn it from a dry dock port into a multi-purpose port, there were only limited services and a few modest shops offers modest goods for passersby Mahout – Duqm - Al Jazer Road.

Back then, I was after performing my first press coverage in Duqm, information were at that time scarce and scattered over several sources, but "Praise Be to Allah", we came back from Duqm me and my colleague the photographer Salem Al Moharbi with a collection of press topics that we released between June and August 2008 in series that shed light on the very first steps in Duqm construction milestones.

In his speech, the Governor (Wali) of Duqm, at that time, Sheikh Helal bin Ali Al Habsi expressed his optimism that Port of Duqm will be one of the main ports in the region, expecting that the development plan of Wilayat of Duqm will lead to "create a new city marked with all merits of modern cities, emphasizing the keenness of the government to avail all factors of success for this city".

People of Duqm were as optimists as him, they welcomed the government plan to develop the city and turn it into a city of heavy industries equipped with the port, dry dock, oil refinery, and other projects; yet they called for enhancing the bais substructure efficiency and to increase the overall benefit of the community from these new projects, confirming their optimism with the future of Wilayat of Duqm.

On 26 October 2011, Royal Decree No. (119/2011) was promulgated for the establishment of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) and issuing its regulations; in conformity with the anticipations and aspirations of its people that Duqm shall not be merely a city for heavy industries, but also an integral economic and developmental project harmonizing the perspectives of its people to benefit from this project, and the expectations of the government to erect an economic stronghold which will participate into the process of economic diversification and propagate development into all Wilayats of Wusta Governorate.

Successes achieved by Duqm, as a developmental economic project, cannot be limited in one project only, as Prot of Duqm, Dry Dock, Refinery of Duqm, Industrial China Park or other projects. What has been accomplished in Duqm, so far, is an achievement with successes that can not limited to a single field, such as creating a basic structure that supports economic growth, training and providing employment opportunities for its citizens, supporting the social development, activating sector of small and middle establishments SMEs, or other fields.

In brief, anyone who witnessed the project inauguration since its first steps, has the right to be proud of what has been realized in this promising project whose driver will never stop.