

Duqm is gearing for Amad Duqm 22 event



Approving mechanism of
registration fees for real estate
usufruct contracts

1919

مركز التواصل
للمناطق الاقتصادية والحررة
نعم ... لتمكين أعمالكم

Call Center
Economic and Free Zones
Yes, we empower your
business



Launching interactive Call Centre
to serve special economic zones
and free zones

YOUR INVESTMENTS GROW WITH US

As the investment arm of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ),

Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer) encourages

Investments in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm through minority equity participation investment to enable businesses and maximise shareholder's investment value.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOCUSES ON:

- Co-investing in businesses, which are enabler and economically sustainable to maximise shareholders' value in the long run.
- Implementing an approach that aligns with the overall objectives of SEZAD.
- Participating with the right player in the respective industry on the basis of strengths of the project.
- Developing and marketing business cases to potential investors to invest in Duqm.
- Executing the investment opportunity through a professionally and independently managed company.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOCUSES ON:

As a local minority partner, Tatweer extends local support to projects developers:

- Assists investors in site selection, company registration, clearances & etc.
- Helps investors in getting access to debt funds from local banks.
- Invests with minority equity – in cash or by land lease rights.
- Brings in local fund houses for participation through equity / quasi debt.

Our Investment Projects

EMDAAD LOGISTICS SAOC

Tatweer has participated in establishing a logistic company named EMDAAD LOGISTICS (SAOC) to provide logistic services in Duqm. This Company is one of the successful projects and Tatweer holds 15 % equity in EMDAAD.

DUQM MATERIAL MARKET SAOC

Tatweer partnered with a Chinese developer and a local Omani fund to establish Duqm Material Market SAOC (DMM). Construction works for the project are progressing well and the project is expected to get commissioned in the middle of 2022. Tatweer owns 15% of the Company's share and serves this project as project management and supervision consultant during its construction phase.

AMAD Duqm 22

From 25 November to 3 December





استكشف المناطق
الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق
الحرة في عُمان
وجهاتكم الأمثل للاستثمار

EXPLORE OMAN'S SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND FREE ZONES

DESTINATIONS OF CHOICE

مدائن
madayn

- 1 مدينة البريمي الصناعية
Al Buraimi Industrial City
- 2 مدينة صحرار الصناعية
Sohar Industrial City
- 3 مدينة عبرى الصناعية
Ibri Industrial City
- 4 مدينة الرسيل الصناعية
Al Rusayl Industrial City
- 5 واحة المعرفة مسقط
Knowledge Oasis Muscat
- 6 مدينة سمائل الصناعية
Samail Industrial City
- 7 مدينة نزوى الصناعية
Nizwa Industrial City
- 8 مدينة صور الصناعية
Sur Industrial City
- 9 مدينة ريسوت الصناعية
Raysut Industrial City

SOHAR
PORT-FREEZONE

45km²
صحرار
SOHAR

المنطقة الحرة بالمزيونة
AL MAZUNAH FREE ZONE

15.3km²
المزيونة
AL MAZUNAH

الدقم
المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة
Special Economic Zone
Sultanate of Oman
سلطنة عُمان

2000km²
الدقم
DUQM

المنطقة الحرة بصلالة
Salalah Free Zone
The world within your hands

21.6km²
صلالة
SALALAH

استثمر في أرض الفرص
INVEST IN THE LAND OF
OPPORTUNITIES



سلطنة عُمان
OMAN

Outstanding activities witnessed in Q3

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) launched the Call Centre, serving all special economic and free zones by allocating the Toll Free "1919". The centre aims to uplift the quality of services provided to public, investors and customers alike. In addition, it facilitates easy communication, immediate response to the calls, and assists in delivering quality and efficient services, while guarantees having a qualified call centre team equipped with sufficient data and information to ensure quick response to all enquiries.

On the other hand, last September, OPAZ approved the mechanism of registration fees for usufruct contracts of real estate properties in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and approved a number of applications in the electric power generation sector in Duqm, as well as approved its corporate vision and mission. It, further, reviewed the promotional plan aimed at attracting investments and projects in different zones during the coming period, in addition to discussing efforts made with regards to the procedures for transferring affiliation of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn" to OPAZ as per the provision of the Royal Decree No. (53/2022). OPAZ also studied ways of integration between industrial zones, free zones and special economic zones, affiliated with OPAZ.

In the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, OPAZ in cooperation with the Rural Electricity Company "Tanweer" completed works on projects for two main electrical transformers stations, the first in the Light Industries Zone, with a capacity of 60 megavolt-amperes, at an estimated cost of about RO 2.6 million, and the second in the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone with a capacity of 40 v, with possible expiation up to 60 megavolt-amperes, at an estimated cost of about RO 2.6 million.

Developing these two projects has positively impacted the increase in demand for power supply and the number of subscribers in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. In this regard, the number of electricity service subscribers increased to around 5,031 by end of 2021, compared to 3,490 subscribers in 2020, recording an increase of up to 30%.

In the field of investment, OPAZ signed a land usufruct agreement with the International Company for Space and Technology to establish a space settlement centre, which serves space research, scientific and practical experiments to simulate astronauts, advanced technology and artificial intelligence. OPAZ has allocated 20,000 sqm of land for this project in the zone designated for artificial intelligence experiments in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

With regards to entertainment and youth, OPAZ, in cooperation with its partners, will host a number of youth, sports, arts and cultural activities during the coming months in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. Such events will in turn help youth to interact with government programmes in the Zone and enable them to understand the Zone's promising projects even better. Therefore, this will help consolidating the project in the hearts of young people, enhance community participation and contribute to sharing ideas, visions and future directions.



Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb

General Supervisor



The Call Centre ensures smooth performance and quick response



Approving mechanism of registration fees for usufruct contracts of real estate properties in Duqm



Completing projects of two main electrical transformers stations



Establishing a space settlement centre

Correspondence and
advertising to be sent to
the Editor-in-Chief :

P.O. Box: 77
Postal Code: 100,
Muscat, Oman

Tel:
0096824507572
0096824507540/

Fax:
0096824587474

Email:
magazine@duqm.gov.om

Follow us on:
www.duqm.gov.om
www.opaz.gov.om

+ 968 71144433

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The magazine welcomes
specialised researches
and academic studies

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Setting up an integrated service station for vehicles in Al Buraimi Industrial City



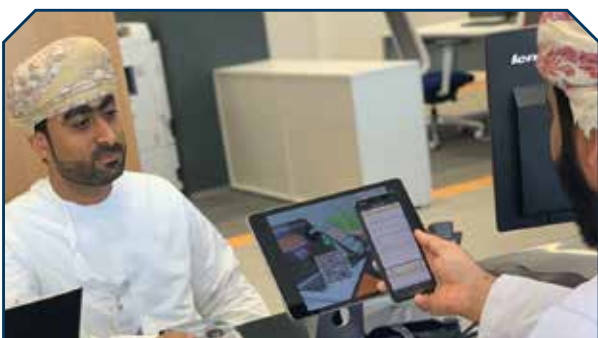
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SEZAD's One-Stop Shop stops paper-based transactions

OPAZ Board of Directors holds third meeting

Approving mechanism of registration fees for real estate usufruct contracts in the zones affiliated with OPAZ



Muscat –  :
The Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) held on September 20, 2022 its third meeting for the year 2022. The meeting was chaired by HE Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Board, at OPAZ headquarters in Muscat.

The Board approved the registration fees mechanism for the usufruct contracts of real estate properties in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD). Accordingly, SEZAD will later announce the relevant details. Further, the Board approved a number of other usufruct applications related to the electricity sector, as well as approving the vision and mission of OPAZ.

During the meeting, OPAZ Board of Directors was briefed on the proposed investment promotion strategy to attract more projects to the zones during the next phase. The Board was also updated on the different

efforts made to transfer the affiliation of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn" to OPAZ as per the Royal Decree No. (53/2022) and the actions that have been taken towards integration between the industrial cities, the free zones and the special economic zones supervised by OPAZ. Moreover, the meeting touched on the reports related to the challenges facing applications for establishing cement projects in the zones.

It is noteworthy that OPAZ was established by the Royal Decree No. (105/2020) on August 18, 2020 to supervise the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, the free zones in Sohar, Salalah, Al Mazunah and any other special economic zone or free zone in the Sultanate of Oman. Furthermore, OPAZ supervises the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) as per the Royal Decree No. (53/2022).



OPAZ appoints general managers and managers



Muscat – :

HE Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), issued decisions appointing a number of general managers and managers for its different sectors and departments.

The decisions stipulated the appointment of Mahmood bin Hamoud bin Mattar Al Rawahi as General Manager of Planning and IT Sector, Dr. Said bin Khalifa bin Ali Al Tuirshi as General Manager of Investment Development Sector, Ahmed bin Saleh bin Ahmed Al Farsi as General Manager of Compliance and Legislation Sector and Eng. Ahmed bin Ali bin Issa Akaak Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

On the other hand, other decisions stipulated appointing Eng. Ahmed bin Harib bin Hamed Al Balushi as Manager of Compliance and

Environmental Affairs, Said bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Harthi as Manager of HR, Adil bin Saif bin Hamed Al Raqadi, Manager of IT, Salim bin Said bin Khuwaydem Qatan, Manager of Investors Services in Duqm, and Eng. Abdullah bin Salim bin Suwaweed Al Hakmani, Manager of Technical Affairs in Duqm.

It is noteworthy that the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) was established as per the provision of the Royal Decree No. (105/2020), issued on August 18, 2020. It oversees the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, free zones in Sohar, Salalah and Al Mazunah and any other special economic zone or free zone in the Sultanate of Oman. OPAZ also oversees the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) as per the provision of the Royal Decree No. (53/2022).



Mahmood Al Rawahi
General Manager of Planning
and IT Sector



Ahmed Al Farsi
General Manager of Compliance
and Legislation Sector



Said Al Tuirshi
General Manager of Investment
Development Sector



Ahmed Akaak
Acting CEO of the Special
Economic Zone at Duqm



Abdullah Al Hakmani
Manager of Technical Affairs
in Duqm



Adil Al Raqadi
Manager of IT



Salim Qatan
Manager of Investors
Services in Duqm



Ahmed Al Balushi
Manager of Compliance and
Environmental Affairs



Said Al Harthi
Manager of HR

Through the toll-free number 1919 OPAZ launches interactive Call Centre to serve special economic zones and free zones

1919

مركز التواصل
للمناطق الاقتصادية والحرّة
نعم ... لتمكين أعمالكم

Call Center
Economic and Free Zones
**Yes, we empower your
business**



Muscat -  :

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has launched its Call Centre, which will handle all incoming calls and enquiries related to the services provided by various zones affiliated to OPAZ. The Call Centre aims at increasing the quality of the services provided to investors, and beneficiaries, facilitating communication process and ensuring that the necessary information is effectively communicated through prompt response to calls by allocating "1919" as a toll-free number for the centre. The Call Centre is equipped with a tracking system for service requests, enquiries and complains in accordance with performance indicators in addition to an interactive system.

HE Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of OPAZ, said that launching the Call Centre will help in achieving the desired objectives of facilitating communication process with investors by providing an immediate response to their calls, communicating the required information and offering enhanced quality services. The Call Centre will be also connected to all free and economic zones and will provide the necessary guidance and clarification to all beneficiaries, businessmen, investors and entrepreneurs.

"OPAZ is keen to provide all facilities that contribute to achieving highly efficient and quality services to investors, whether local

or international, stressing the importance of qualifying the Call Centre team with sufficient information and tools that ensure smooth performance and speedy response to the service enquires, which will cover all zones affiliated with OPAZ", Deputy Chairman of OPAZ commented.

In addition to its role in responding to enquiries whether by call or e-mail, OPAZ Call Center has smart electronic interactive procedures, as it takes direct and immediate measures in responding to service requests or reporting incident. The Call Center responds by recording the internal interactive electronic request, then transfer it to the concerned in various zones. It tracks the service request flow until it is completed to ensure the quality of the service, OPAZ Call Center responds by calls, SMS or email.

OPAZ Call Centre operates from 8 am to 8 pm, unlike before where the calls and enquires were received during the official working hours only. The Call Centre team have been trained and qualified to be able to respond to all incoming calls and were provided with all relevant information and data and qualified to track the flow of the service request. The Call Centre applies the state-of-the-art technical system to ensure enhanced quality and speedy response to requests and enquires.

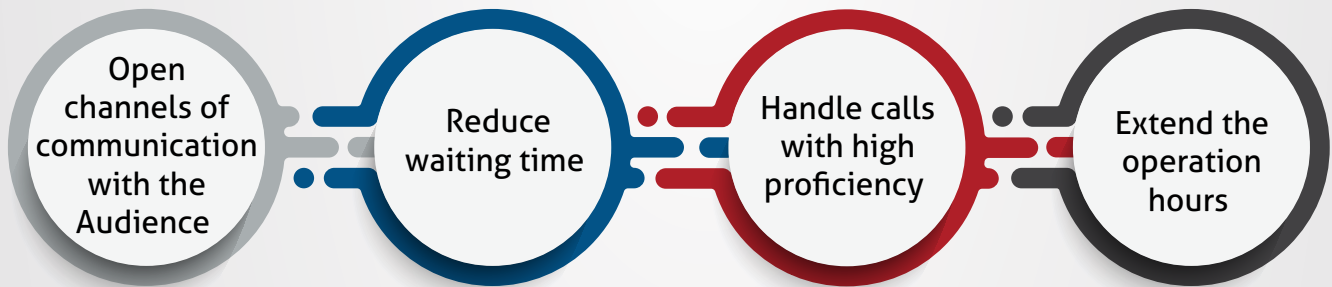


Call Center 1919

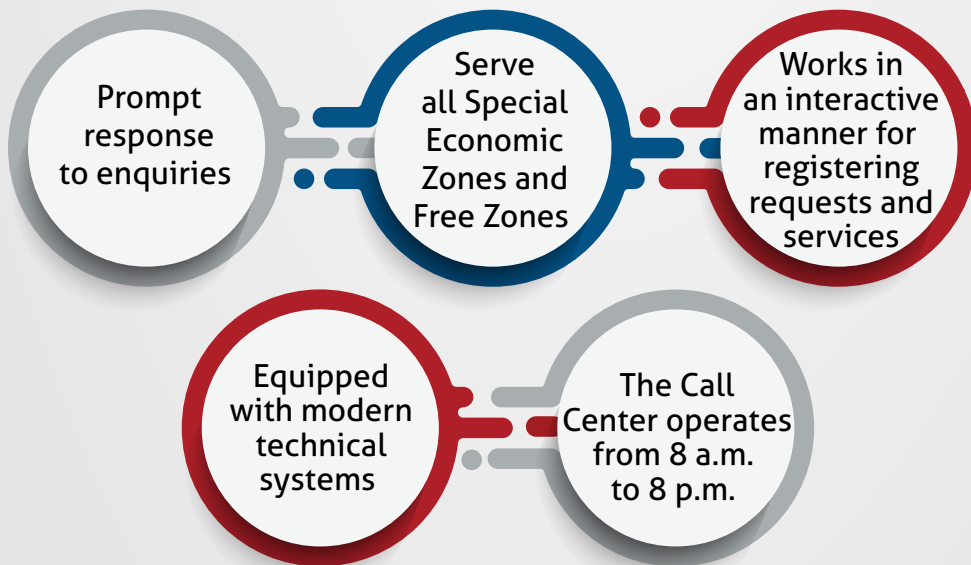
To serve all Special Economic and Free Zones



Objectives



Features



At a cost of RO 2.6 million

SEZAD develops major power transformers plants projects in Duqm



ONA -  :
العمان


The first plant is in the Light Industries Zone, with a capacity of 60 megavolt-amperes, at an estimated cost of about RO 2.6 million

As part of its plan to keep pace with the economic growth witnessed in the zone, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), in cooperation with the Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer), developed two main power transformers plants in the Light Industries Zone, with a capacity of 60 megavolt- amperes, at an estimated cost of about 2.6 RO million.

The second plant is constructed in the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone, with a capacity of 40 megavolt-amperes and possibility to expand in the future up to 60 megavolt-ampere. The RO 2.6-million-project is developed as part of SEZAD's plan to keep pace with the ongoing economic growth witnessed in the Zone.

Eng. Said bin Ahmed Bani Oraba, In Charge of the Electricity and Water Regulation Department in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, confirmed that the electricity distribution plants are equipped with the latest electrical equipment according to the Omani standard specifications. Both plants will feed several under-construction projects in the Light Industries Zone, Exhibitions Zone, Fisheries and Food Industries Zone, multi-purpose fishing Port in SEZAD, through a distribution network consisting of ground cables with voltages of 11 kV and 415 V through distribution plants distributed in different blocks. The main plant contains a number of electrical transformers, control rooms, measuring and protection equipment and devices, and a SCADA system. The plants feeders are designed to operate on a voltage of 33 kV in an annular manner to ensure continuous power supply to the projects in case of any feeder gets an emergency failure. The plants will feed the current and future electrical loads in these areas.

Eng. Said, stated, "A number of electricity network connection works to investors have been completed in the first plant, while other requests for electricity

connection to under-construction projects in the Light industries Zone and Exhibitions Zone are in progress. Several projects have been connected to the electricity network including the drinking water project, metal structures project, the main water tank station, and other existing projects. Works are on the move to complete electricity connection to 10 other under construction investment projects in the industrial zone and to lighting lamps manufacture factory and other targeted investments in SEZAD".

Eng. Said Bani Oraba noted that electricity has already been supplied to different investors' projects while a number of other requests for electricity are being reviewed for the under construction projects in the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone, Artificial Intelligence Zone, and the multi-purpose Fishing Port project. On the other hand, electricity network has been connected to nine projects, such as fish factories, ice factories, fish oil factories and fish canning factories, while work is underway to connect the Port and main water tank to the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone".

He also added, "The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) accords high importance to speed up power supply to investors. After transferring electricity regulation competencies to OPAZ, it amended electricity service supply regulation to expedite the pace of electricity supply to investors, and this has had a positive impact to increase the demand for electricity and the number of customers in SEZAD. The number of subscribers to electricity service increased to 5,031 customers by the end of 2021 compared to 3490 subscribers in 2020, an increased rate of up to 30%".

There are other projects in the electricity sector in their final phases of testing and commissioning, distributed in different targeted blocks in SEZAD. These projects will be announced consecutively as part of OPAZ plan to promote these blocks by providing necessary services and increasing investors interest.



Main power transformers plants in the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone



40 megavolt
amperes



Plant's feeders
are (N-1)



Capacity: 11 kV
and 415 V



Cost:
RO 2.6 million



Main power transformers plant in the Light Industries Zone



60 megavolt
amperes



Plant's feeders
are annular



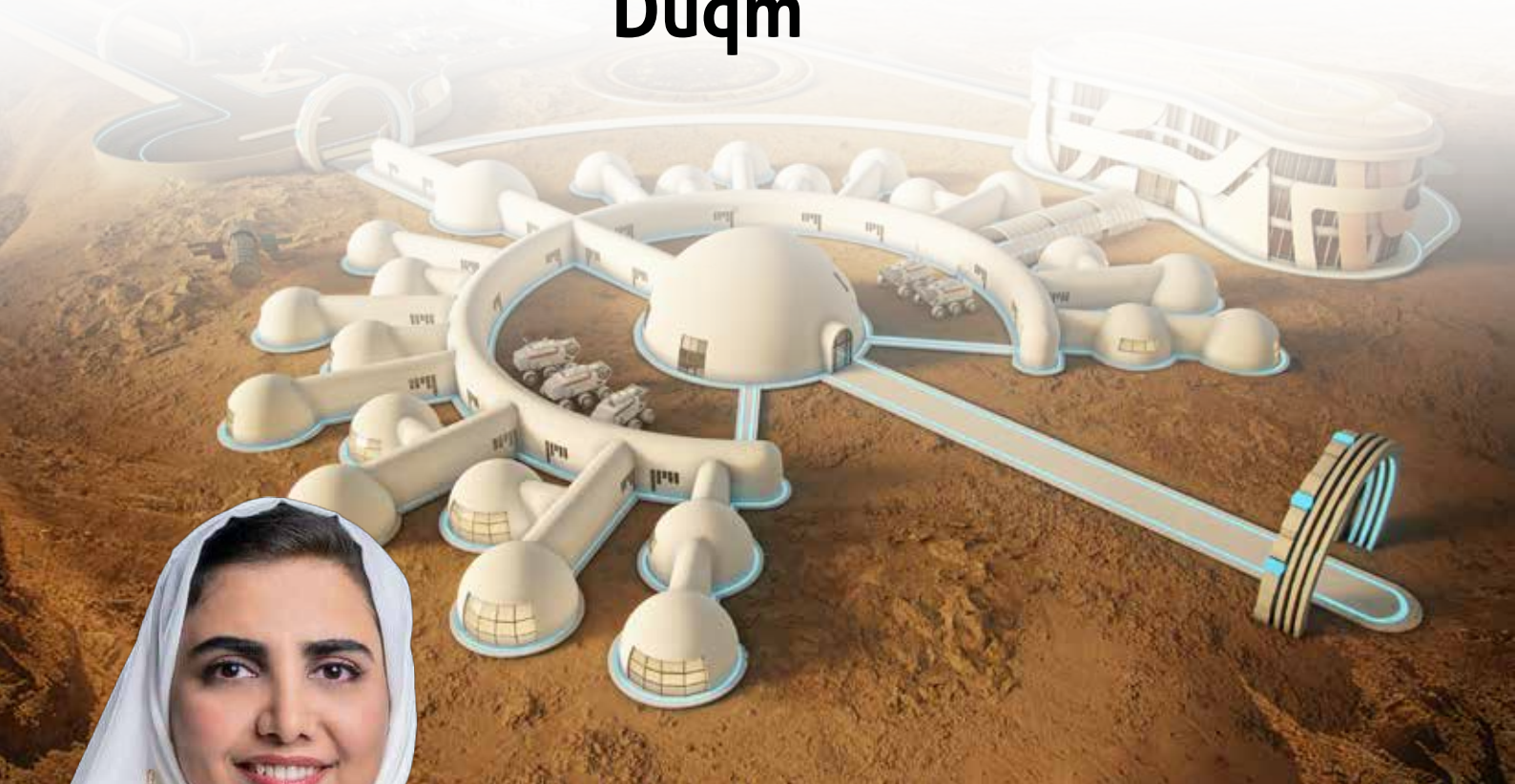
Capacity: 11 kV
and 415 V



Cost:
RO 2.6 million

Over 20,000 sqm

Establishing space settlement centre in Duqm



Eng. Bahiya: The centre stands as a global project for scientific researches targeting international audience

Duqm – :


The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has signed a land usufruct agreement with Global Space and Technology Company to establish Space Settlement Centre for researches and scientific and practical experiments to simulate astronauts and conduct researches on advanced technology and artificial intelligence, over an area of 20,000 sqm in the Artificial Intelligence Zone in Duqm.

The agreement was signed by Eng. Ahmed bin Ali bin Issa Akaak Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and Eng. Bahiya bint Hilal bin Sultan Al Shuaibi, Founder and CEO of Global Space and Technology Company. The Centre has been allocated to simulate astronauts in the zone designated for the artificial intelligence in Duqm.

Eng. Bahiya bint Hilal bin Sultan Al Shuaibi, Founder and CEO of Global Space and

Technology Company, pointed out, "We were pleased to announce the signing of the usufruct agreement to develop this project, which is Space Settlement Centre to simulate living on space, such as staying on the moon or Mars. The project aims to create a simulating space environment to study the behaviours of astronauts before joining the actual astronaut flights. The project will serve scientists, researchers and those interested in doing their experiments in the space sector, artificial intelligence and advanced technology".

"Global Space and Technology Company will develop this Centre to serve space and modern technology projects for commercial and research purposes, by providing several services, such as satellites for communications, remote sensing and space imaging. In addition, the project aims to establish training programmes to transfer knowledge in cooperation with specialised international institutions. Therefore, the


The Centre is
expected to
be completed
within two
years



Company designs different programmes related to virtual reality, 3D programmes for educational purposes and simulation, in line with the needs of educational institutions and providing them with the appropriate relevant devices” she added.








Eng. Bahiya explained that the Space Settlement Centre stands as a global project, targeting an international audience, for scientific research dedicated to astronauts, scientists, researchers and CEOs. It will also be open for educational visits or tourism to familiarise youth and students with the latest updates space world, hoping to cooperate with scientific institutions, colleges and universities in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Centre is expected to be completed within two years due to its high

specifications and technical tools. Eng. Bahiya commended the cooperation in facilitating procedures and speeding up the process of land allocation by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ). It is worth noting that the Global Space and Technology Company won the Business Excellence Award 2021 by the World Business Federation in the USA.

On the other side, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones has allocated a zone for artificial intelligence, drone experiments and future technologies in Duqm, covering 18 sqkm of area and an altitude of 80 metres above the sea level. Further, a supervisory committee was formed to supervise the works and projects developed in the Artificial Intelligence Zone.

Objectives of the Space Settlement Centre in Duqm

- ✦  Creating a simulated space environment
- ✦  Studying the behaviours of astronauts
- ✦  Scientific tourism
- ✦  Knowledge transfer training programmes
- ✦  Sharing insights with youth, students and researchers
- ✦  Providing satellites for communications purposes
- ✦  Space photography and remote sensing

Developing a new pipeline for exporting crude oil from Raz Markaz Terminal



ONA – :

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals and Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO), a subsidiary of OQ Group, signed a framework agreement for their joint cooperation to develop, build and operate a new pipeline that will be connected with its infrastructure to transfer, store and export Oman Export Blend Crude Oil from Ras Markaz crude oil storage terminal, owned and operated by OTTCO in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

This enables the Ministry and OQ Group to expand the energy sector by meeting the expected growth in SEZAD and the energy industry in the Sultanate, further supports Oman Blend as a benchmark and for the Ras Markaz Terminal to become a regional hub in alignment with OQ and OTTCO's growth strategy.

The terminal will provide crude oil handling, storage, import and export services for refineries and petrochemicals downstream projects in SEZAD and to serve market needs of customers and other stakeholders. OTTCO, as the project developer will be conducting detailed studies and move forward with execution and implementation of this important project, including facilities which may be required for customers, producers and traders of Oman Export Blend Crude Oil. In addition, OTTCO, as experienced operator, also provides all services related to the operations and maintenance of the facilities and assets.

The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals by HE Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Talal bin Hamed Al Awfi OQ Group CEO and Hilal bin Ali Al Kharusi, CEO Commercial and Downstream at OQ and Chairman of OTTCO Board of Directors.



As a new route for exporting oil from Arabian Sea Ras Markaz receives the first shipment by Q4 of 2022



Duqm –  .

Ras Markaz crude oil storage terminal in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) is gearing to receive the first shipment of crude oil in the Q4 of this year. Hence, the Sultanate of Oman will become a new route for oil export from the Arabian Sea, overlooking the Indian Ocean. It is about 7 kilometres from the shore, bringing two pipelines with 42-inch diameter and associated systems. The second part includes civil works, mountain crushing, developing oil pumping and water treatment systems, construction of tanks, power stations network and other associated systems.

Ras Markaz crude oil storage terminal, which is developed by Oman Terminal Tank Company (OTTCO), a subsidiary of OQ Group, is a significant project that aims to store all types of oil in large quantities, taking advantage of the terminal's strategic location near emerging markets. The project serves placing Ras Markaz into the largest crude oil storage terminal in the region. OTTCO plans to have an oil storage capacity of approximately 26 million barrels during the first phase, and aspires to reach 200 million barrels, according to the growing demand from investors.

The project marks one of the most important strategic investment projects that contribute to thriving the future plans of the Sultanate of Oman to build a solid base based on economic

diversification. This supports enhancing the domestic product, promoting the national economy, empowering small and medium enterprises, and providing job opportunities for qualified national cadres.

Ras Markaz terminal is connected to Duqm Refinery with an 80-km pipeline, as the first phase of the terminal will mainly serve Duqm Refinery, with a storage capacity of 6 million barrels. On the other hand, Duqm Refinery project, which is connected to Ras Markaz crude oil tanks, includes 3 different packages. The first package relates to the Refinery's main processing units and the second is represented in the services and facilities that support operations, while the third includes storage facilities and others for exporting liquid and bulk petroleum materials from the Port of Duqm, storage facilities at Ras Markaz, an 80-km long pipeline to transport crude oil from Ras Markaz to the Refinery. Further, the production capacity of Duqm Refinery may reach 320,000 barrels per day of diesel, naphtha, jet fuel and liquefied petroleum gas.

To keep pace with commercial and development growth Launching Otaxi service in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm



Duqm – 

Otaxi, one of Oman Technology Fund's investments, announced providing its public transport service in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD). Introducing this service is aimed to keep pace with the ongoing commercial and development growth that is witnessed in the Zone.

Eng. Harith bin Khamis Al Maqbali, CEO of Otaxi, stated, "The service was launched in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and the taxi order platform has been installed at Duqm Airport. This will facilitate the service for Duqm visitors who can use this fast delivery service. Else, visitors can also use this reliable service via the Otaxi mobile app with affordable price".

Eng. Harith urged visitors and residents at Duqm to experience the Otaxi service in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and share their opinions and observations on the service, which will be seriously taken into consideration. This serves lifting up and improving the taxi and transport service in the Sultanate of Oman to meet the public's aspirations. The Company's channels on social media platforms, mobile applications or through the 24-hour call centre mark the focal point for receiving feedback and comments. On the other hand, Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at

Duqm, commended the Otaxi's cooperation to provide its services in the Zone, which in turn will provide an additional advantage for arrivals, visitors and tourists to the Zone through Duqm Airport, which is witnessing a growing and rapid economic movement where there is a need to move in easily and flexibility. Moreover, the service will also contribute to creating job opportunities for taxi owners in Duqm.

It is worth noting that Otaxi started providing its services in 2018 to include many governorates and wilayats. It stands as the first taxi service available through an electronic application in the Sultanate of Oman. The Otaxi mobile app details of prices and special promotions offered to users and beneficiaries.



Installing taxi
order platform
at Duqm
Airport

Visitors are
urged to
experience the
service and
share their
opinions and
observations to
be taken into
consideration

Supported by specialised companies

SEZAD organises First Environment Forum



Duqm -  :

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) organised the First Environment Forum, with collaboration of a group of companies specialised in providing environmental services and consultancy, and other corporates operating in the Zone.

The Forum was presided over by HE Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), and attended by Sheikh Zahir bin Ali Al Sunaidi, Deputy Wali of Duqm, representatives from the Environment Authority and other dignitaries in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

The first edition of the Environment Forum is aimed to supporting and develop the joint cooperation between various entities and companies, operating in SEZAD, in the field of environment protection and preservation. This forum serves as a platform to share the expertise of different entities in promoting sustainable environmental development, and find new and innovative mechanisms to solve potential environmental problems and challenges. In addition, the forum aims to highlight the need for joining efforts to promote environment preservation and reduce the potential environmental impacts resulting from the various construction and industrial activities in SEZAD.

On the other hand, the Forum shed lights to the role played by the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, represented by the Environmental Regulatory Department in cooperation with environmental services companies, with regards to preserving the environment, protecting the biological diversity, and assessing the environmental impacts of all economic activities and projects in the Zone.

The Forum also included reviewing the most important and insightful experiences of companies that provide various environmental services to projects and institutions. Further, discussion sessions were also held in which the difficulties and potential challenges and ways to develop procedures and find possible environmental solutions were highlighted.

It is worth noting that organising the First Environment Forum comes in line with SEZAD's ongoing efforts and commitment towards protecting the environment. Earlier this year, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm launched the "Together for a Sustainable Environment in Duqm" campaign, which seeks to activate the partnership and cooperation between public and private sectors in the field of preserving environment. This campaign was kicked off with a set of environmental activities, including beach clean-up drives in Duqm and organising events and initiatives aimed at enriching and highlighting biological and environmental diversity in the Zone.


**Supporting
and developing
cooperation in
environment
protection and
preservation**


**Finding new
and innovative
mechanisms to
solve potential
environmental
problems and
challenges**



Conrad Prabhu

An integrated vision for Oman's SEZs, free zones and industrial cities

In recent months, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has grown exponentially, both in terms of the scope of its mandate, as well as in its positioning as a pivotal player in driving Oman's economic diversification.

In June this year, the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) was placed under the regulatory purview of OPAZ. The landmark move – pursuant to Royal Decree No. (53/2022) – marks another key step in bringing all Oman's diverse manufacturing and industrial base, currently overseen by multiple government agencies, under one overarching authority. In essence, the Royal Decree ended Madayn's longstanding affiliation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), and transferred it to OPAZ. The Decree effectively enlarges the Authority's remit, which until recently encompassed only the free zones at Sohar and Salalah, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), and the future Airport Free Zones.

Madayn's inclusion into this mix is far from symbolic. As the operator of around 10 industrial cities, with dozens more in the pipeline, Madayn is a success story in its own right. With nearly 2,300 localised projects, representing an aggregate investment of around RO 7 billion, Madayn's network of industrial cities makes a significant contribution to Oman's non-oil GDP, while providing employment to 8% of the country's total workforce. Going forward, and with OPAZ's policy guidance, it has the potential to spearhead Oman's development into a manufacturing and industrial powerhouse in this region.

With Madayn's incorporation into OPAZ's broad remit, the final piece in the jigsaw that makes up Oman's disparate manufacturing and industrial base has been brought under one umbrella authority. This will allow for

policies, regulations, services, facilities and incentives to be standardized and streamlined across OPAZ's vast jurisdiction, of course, with some valid exceptions particularly when they apply to free zones and SEZs.

One important outcome of this exercise, experts say, is to create agglomerations of product or service specific industries in a given area of the country – a step that bodes well for the growth of entire ecosystems around an industry type. Take, for example, investments in pharmaceuticals and healthcare products. Salalah Free Zone, with its advantageous location overlooking the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean beyond, has already emerged as a major hub for pharma related investments. Over time, this pharma hub will catalyse the growth of ancillary manufacturing units, thereby sparking the development of an end-to-end pharma-based cluster in and around Salalah. From the strategic perspective, it would make abundant economic sense to promote Salalah FZ as Oman's investment destination of choice when it comes to pharma-based projects.

Thus, instead of encouraging a plethora of individual pharma projects distributed around the country, OPAZ – as the sole authority over all of Oman's free zones, SEZs and industries cities – can now work towards promoting, in this particular instance, Salalah FZ as its preferred destination for pharma based investments. This clustering of sector-specific industries in one geographical area will help unlock synergies and opportunities for further investment across the value chain.

In the same vein, Freezone Sohar, for example, is ideally positioned for mineral processing investments, given its proximity to mineral resources in the hinterland of the port. Furthermore, the free zone enjoys access to abundant energy resources, notably conventional power and natural gas. In addition to its distinctive appeal as a destination for mining related investment, Freezone Sohar is also well-positioned to attract plastics and



polymer based processing industries, in light of the presence of Liwa Plastics – a petrochemicals giant – located nearby within Sohar Port.

Likewise, Duqm SEZAD – the biggest of OPAZ's assets – has multiple value propositions that can be capitalised to woo investments primarily in, on the one hand, petrochemicals – in light of the presence of Duqm Refinery nearby – and on the other, logistics. Duqm's advantageous geostrategic location overlooking the Arabian Sea makes it ideal for the location of warehousing and storage hubs with an eye on markets further afield in the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and East Africa.

Furthermore, with Oman embarking on its transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to a low-carbon future powered by green hydrogen, Duqm has all of the characteristics of a green energy hub in the making. Mega-scale electrolyzers, as well as green ammonia plants, representing the downstream component of a future green hydrogen industry, will all be clustered within the SEZAD. But the upstream component, comprising massive fields of solar PV panels and wind turbines, will be located just beyond across the expansive Wusta desert. The availability of abundant, optimally suitable desert land for renewable energy generation, makes Duqm ideal for green energy investments.

With all of Oman's industrial and manufacturing areas brought under a unified authority, OPAZ, it is now possible for this authority to position and market these areas

based on their respective value propositions. Where responsibility for marketing these zones lay with their respective agencies – a multiplicity of them until recently – that task now falls to one authority going forward. Discordant marketing programmes of the past, narrowly focused on individual zones, will now make way for a more effective effort that will seek to put the spotlight, first and foremost, on Oman as a promising investment destination, before pivoting to specific geographical zones based on the nature of the investment. Through this Oman-centric marketing approach, OPAZ has a better chance of wooing international investors based on the Sultanate's overall value proposition before steering these investors to specific zones depending upon the nature of their investment.

In a different league of its own is Al Mazunah Free Zone straddling Oman's border with neighbouring Yemen in Dhofar Governorate. Although small in comparison with its peers elsewhere within Oman, Al Mazunah has seen cargo flows rise sharply in the wake of the launch of a 'dry port' within the free zone. Leading global container shipping giant MSC recently sent a delegation of executives to check out Al Mazunah Dry Port, which has since obtained its own international port code 'OMAMZ'. It qualifies shipping lines to ship their goods directly to the inland port through Port of Salalah. Al Mazunah Free Zone, while a modest facility overall, is on a strong growth trajectory.

Karwa Motors exports third batch of buses to Qatar



Duqm – :

The third batch includes 26 buses


The Company's team has succeeded in producing and exporting this batch of buses to the State of Qatar, so they will be use during the 2022 World Cup

In continuation of its production and manufacturing works to provide the large transport buses for the World Cup, which will be held in Qatar, Karwa Motors Company exported the third batch of 26 buses that were produced according to Gulf standards and requirements for World Cup 2022.

The Company's team has succeeded in producing and exporting this batch of buses to the State of Qatar, so they will be used during the World Cup 2022. The factory will meet the region's requirements for different buses and then move to the wider export phase.

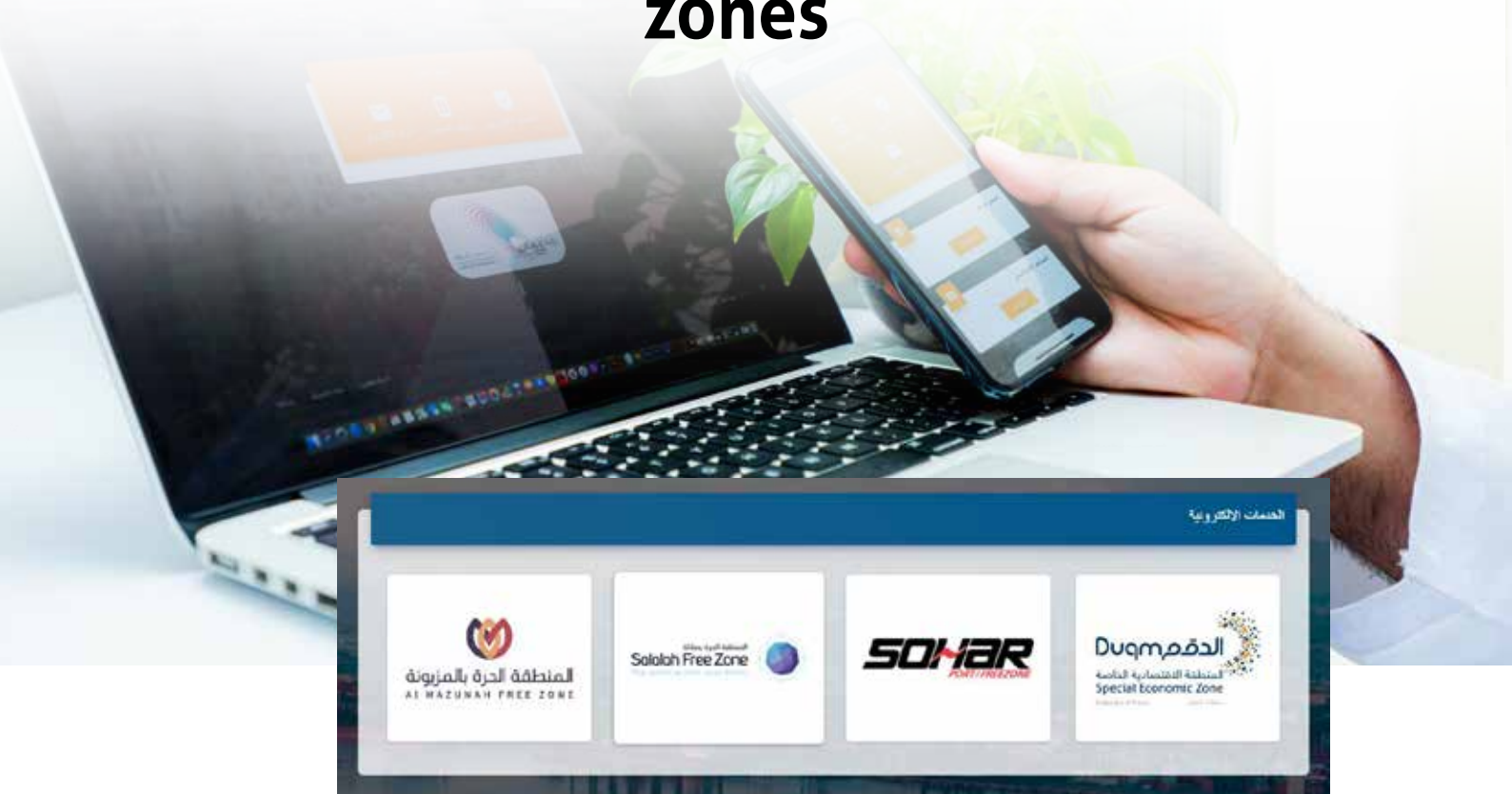
Karwa Motors Factory in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), which seeks to transfer bus manufacturing

technology, marks one of the manufacturing centres and boosts the overall development, in addition to creating medium and small projects that support the factory's business as well as contributing to empowering Omani youth. The factory includes different workshops for cutting, welding, dyeing and assembling parts. It also brings major multi-purpose warehouses for storing raw materials, spare parts, dyes and chemicals used in the bus industry.

It is worth noting that the project, which was officially inaugurated in June this year, is part of the strategic investment partnership between the Sultanate of Oman, represented by Oman Investment Authority, which owns 30 % of the project, and the State of Qatar, represented by Mowasalat, which owns 70 %.



OPAZ offers e-service for registering SMEs in special economic zones and free zones



Duqm – :

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has announced opening an electronic service for registering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the One-stop shop, through the Digital Investment Portal of the Authority <https://eoss.opaz.gov.om>. Through this service, entrepreneurs registered with the SMEs Development Authority, holding (Riyada) card, can get more opportunities in procurement, tenders, and works assigned to SMEs from the projects operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) and the Free zones.

In this context, Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Hinai from OPAZ said, there are many prospects and opportunities in SEZAD and the Zones affiliated to the Authority for entrepreneurs to benefit from. This service which has been converted to e-service in the One-Stop Shop aims to create a database that facilitates reaching out to entrepreneurs, with Riyada card and those registered in the Zones affiliated to the Authority. AL Hinai added, that these enterprises can benefit from the opportunities offered

(which represent 10% of the value of the projects implemented in the zones). Through its digital transformation plans, OPAZ seeks to automate its procedures for the benefit of entrepreneurs and to facilitate OPAZ access to entrepreneurs by creating a database that classifies the types of activities offered by SMEs. Through this database, SMEs will have the opportunities to take part in the tenders and contracts of the projects implemented in OPAZ's various zones through the Digital Investment Portal of the Authority.

It is worth noting, that OZPAZ also intends to achieve continuous development in all electronic services offered to entrepreneurs.

It is worth noting, that the works assigned to (SMEs) in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) from 2016 to 2022 amounted to RO 68 million, and more than 230 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have benefited from these amounts which registered with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), while the OPAZ seeks to develop all electronic services provided to entrepreneurs.

With over \$ 40 million Establishing chemical plant in Sur Industrial City



Sur – :

Sur Industrial City, affiliated with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", signed an investment contract with Al Ghaith for Chemical Industries on 60,000 sqm with an investment value exceeding \$ 40 million. This value-adding project aims at promoting the growth of chemical industries and supplying the oil and gas, petrochemical and water treatment industries with basic chemicals and raw materials.

Eng. Al Mamoon Al Baadani, CEO of Al Ghaith for Chemical Industries, said: "We look forward to starting construction works during the last quarter of this year to expand production operations for caustic soda, hydrochloric acid,

calcium chloride and sodium hypochlorite, and meet the needs of customers in the oil and gas, chemical industries, and water treatment sectors. The plant is expected to commence commercial production during the first half of 2024, thanks to the efforts made by Sur Industrial City management to facilitate the investment process."

On his side, Eng. Abdulqadir Al Balushi, Director General of Sur Industrial City, informed that this project will adopt advanced chlor-alkali technologies. "The production lines will be operated with cutting-edge and environmentally friendly technologies, which shall enhance the quality of the plant's output. It is hoped that the project will provide a range of job opportunities for Omanis," Al Balushi pointed out.



Over an area of 3,559 sqm

Setting up an integrated service station for vehicles in Al Buraimi Industrial City



Al Buraimi- :

Al Buraimi Industrial City, affiliated with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", signed an investment contract with Murtafat Mahdha Trading, to set up an integrated service station for vehicles over an area of 3,559 sqm with an investment value touching RO 500,000. The contract was signed by Said bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director General of Al Buraimi Industrial City, and Rashid bin Salim Al Kaabi, Project Manager.

The project, which will be located on the main road to Al Buraimi Industrial City, aims at offering a range of facilities and services to the investors, business owners and workforce in Al Buraimi

Industrial City in particular, and the population in Al Buraimi Governorate in general. This value-added project in the industrial city will play a role in generating job opportunities and attracting service projects.

It is worthwhile to mention that Madayn is implementing a number of projects in Al Buraimi Industrial City, which include the infrastructure development project in phases 1 and 2 at a total cost of more than RO 5 million and a completion rate exceeding 30%. This project includes the development of sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 400m², road rehabilitation works, water supply distribution network, electrical works, and street lighting (85 lighting poles) for phase 2.

On an area of 230,000 sqm

Establishing an environmentally friendly rubber powder production plant

Sur- :



The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", signed an investment contract with Al Fairuz Projects and Investments, to establish rubber powder production plant.

Commenting on the project, Eng. Abdulqadir bin Salim Al Balushi, Director General of Sur Industrial City, stated that this eco-friendly project will be developed on an area of 230,000 sqm and will adopt cutting-edge tyre recycling technologies. "The tyre recycling project is expected to generate many job opportunities, of

which 75% will be for Omanis," Al Balushi informed.

On his part, Eng. Ahmed bin Mohamed Washah, Executive Director of the project, pointed out that the rubber powder production plant will be beneficial for the manufacturing industries that use biofuel and carbon, as they will be extracted utilising advanced and environmentally friendly technology rather than harmful tyre burning.

The project establishment phase is expected to commence during the last quarter of the current year, and the two-year planned construction phases will kick off in the first half of next year.

The infrastructure project records 27 % completion

Ibri Industrial City localises 23 projects with investments exceeding RO 9 million



303 lighting poles has been installed using solar energy

The number of localised projects in Ibri Industrial City 23 reached projects

Ibri – :

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn" is currently developing the construction project of Ibri Industrial City, where the completion rate of the infrastructure project in Phase One has surpassed 27%. Phase One of the project is being developed on an area of 3 million sqm and incorporates road works, services network such as sewage, rain and telecom networks, and wadi protection walls. Further, 303 lighting poles has been installed using solar energy, and excavation works, and water and sewage networks are currently being completed.

"The number of localised projects in Ibri Industrial City in Al Dhahirah Governorate has reached 23 projects on a total area of 250,000 sqm and an investment value exceeding RO 9 million", stated Eng. Nasser Al Mabsali, Director General of Ibri Industrial City. These projects represent several sectors including building materials, oil and gas services, foodstuff and

warehouses.

Al Mabsali pointed out that Ibri Industrial City is located over an area spanning 10 million sqm, and aims at localising a variety of industrial, commercial and service activities such as light and medium industries, commercial projects, administrative offices, industrial workshops, warehouses, and workforce township.

It is worthwhile to mention that Madayn has floated a tender earlier this year as an investment opportunity to establish a one-stop shop comprising a petrol station, rest area, and service station for trucks and vehicles passing through the road to Saudi Arabia.

150 trees planted in Nizwa and Samail cities



Nizwa – :

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", in cooperation with Muscat Municipality's Directorate General of Afforestation and Gardens, organised 'Green Madayn' Campaign to plant 150 trees in Nizwa and Samail Industrial Cities. The workforce based in the companies and factories in the two industrial cities took part in the campaign alongside school students.

The campaign aims at enhancing awareness among the investing companies in the two industrial cities on the significance of afforestation efforts in achieving a safe and ideal environment, and thus reducing negative impacts. The efforts made by Madayn in this area play a key role in reinforcing sustainable development partnerships with the private sector in social responsibility aspects.

Over an area of 6,000 sqm Establishing a "Feed Products Packaging Factory" in Mahas Industrial City



Khasab – :

Mahas Industrial City, which is affiliated with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", signed a contract with Hassan Al Qaishi Trading Establishment to establish a factory for packaging feed products over an area of 6,000 sqm. The project is one of the qualitative projects to be

established in the Wilayat of Khasab in Musandam Governorate, which will directly contribute to supplying the local market with these products, and provide a range of job opportunities as well.

Focusing on Logistics and Trade Solutions

SOHAR Port and Freezone presents Fifth Webinar with FICCI



Sohar – :

SOHAR Port and Freezone hosted the fifth and final webinar in its series with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), called "Trade and Logistics Solutions via SOHAR Port and Freezone to Maximize Your Market Reach". The series, which commenced in 2021, has covered a range of topics including metals, food, and logistics highlighting the potential avenues for further bi-lateral trade between Oman and India. SOHAR Port and Freezone offers a number of strategic advantages for Indian businesses, including strong logistics connections, promotions in trade licenses, and flexible warehousing solutions, as proven by the many Indian companies who have already achieved success at SOHAR.

The webinar featured presentations from Robert Bartstra, Executive Commercial Manager at SOHAR Port and Freezone, Mohammed Al Kindi, Commercial Officer at SOHAR Port and Freezone, and Rajesh Vaidya and Nathan Iyer, General Manager at Khimji Ramdas Shipping. There was also a panel discussion on Indian Exports in SOHAR with speakers from Lalan Middle East, Matrix Prime Logistics, Radiant Freight and Logistics, and DHL Global Forwarding, all based at SOHAR.

"Providing a thriving gateway to new markets, as well as the best in terms of services,

infrastructure and connections, SOHAR is the ultimate link in the supply chain. We have a multi-purpose port operated by world renowned companies, which is connected to the Freezone via a bonded corridor, and we offer direct shipping lines to India as well as access to the GCC, including a new road to Saudi Arabia. Plus, with Oman's Ports ranked the fastest in the world for container handling according to the UNCTAD index, it presents extremely competitive customs processes. These webinars address all of this, increasing visibility in the Indian market and highlighting the many opportunities that are presented for companies," said Omar Al Mahrizi, SOHAR Freezone Chief Executive Officer.

Al Mahrizi added, "SOHAR Port and Freezone offers an advantageous base for logistics operators with an impressive 65,000,000 m² of land set aside for trade and logistics, manufacturing, as well as distribution. With direct shipping lines to India and six services per week, our strategic location makes it the perfect place to start warehousing and logistics operations for a wide range of products and commodities, either for transit through Oman, or for distribution into the region. Plus, with no corporate taxes/VAT, import/export tax free means that overall operational costs are up to 50% less than elsewhere in the region, posing significant economic as well as strategic advantages."

Signing agreement to establish a liquid fertiliser plants



Sohar – :

SOHAR Freezone signed a land lease agreement with Integrated Solutions Plant and Land Services (FZC) LLC for 15,000 sqm within the Freezone to establish a liquid fertiliser plant. The project represents an investment of RO 2.2 million and it includes the potential for future expansion which would see the plant produce ammonium sulphate to strengthen Oman's export sector, especially in Pakistan and Tanzania.

Omar bin Mahmood Al Mahrizi, CEO of SOHAR Freezone, and Deputy CEO of SOHAR Port said, "The addition of a new liquid fertiliser plant, in partnership with Integrated Solutions Plant and Land Services (FZC) LLC, enhances SOHAR ability to serve the local, regional, and global markets with high-quality agents for industrial production. SOHAR can offer companies in all sectors a world-class integrated logistics and industrial hub with direct shipping to key markets and broadening our tenant profile to Egypt for the first time is a key step in our ongoing expansion."

Hussein Amin, Partner at Integrated Solutions Plant and Land Services (FZC) LLC, added, "We are delighted to establish a presence at SOHAR with the 15,000 sqm space within SOHAR Freezone, which will help us expand operations and reach new clients in developing markets.

Integrated Solutions Plant and Land Services is at the forefront of producing high-grade, organic liquid fertiliser in support of growing populations and increasing needs in this sector. SOHAR represents an opportunity to connect with customers worldwide using established shipping lines and trade agreements."

SOHAR Port and Freezone is an engine for economic diversification, sustainability, and investment in order to meet Oman's development goals. The fully integrated industrial and logistics hub offering a wealth of attractive incentives to make doing business easier and more efficient. Businesses benefit from 100% foreign ownership, attractive local labor requirements, 0% import or export duties and 0% income tax, and the on-site One-Stop-Shop service is available to assist with the acquisition of all necessary registration, licenses, and visas. SOHAR Port operates a custom clearing service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is linked to the Freezone by a bonded transport corridor that allows goods to travel between Port and Freezone within 14 minutes.


**Leasing
15,000 sqm of
land**


**The project
enhances
Sohar ability
to serve local,
regional,
and global
markets with
high - quality
products**

Felix Pharmaceutical Industries signs first contract to sell pharmaceutical products internationally



Salalah – :

Felix Pharmaceutical Industries signed a strategic contract with Devart Middle East Company for contract manufacturing that includes the manufacture and sale of a number of the company's most important products in its factory in the Salalah Free Zone, in order to enhance Devart Middle East's strong presence in the Sultanate of Oman.

Waseem Hamad, CEO of Felix Pharmaceutical Industries, valued the confidence that Devart gave to the partnership with the Omani national pharmaceutical industry, which is the first pharmaceutical industrial cooperation between the pharmaceutical industries in the Sultanate of Oman and the Arab Republic of Egypt, and expressed the company's ambition to be a global logistical pharmaceutical manufacturing centre in the coming years. On the strategic location and logistical capabilities of the Sultanate of Oman, and the industrial capabilities and technical and administrative competencies of the company to serve this strategic goal.

On the other hand, Dr. Hussein Farag, Founder and Chairman of Devart Middle East, stated that the company aims to contribute to strengthening the Arab and Gulf drug security system by transferring technology for manufacturing distinctive items to be available in the Gulf region and Africa through this partnership, as an essential part of company's vision, which was founded since 2011. We believe that Devart has a very important role other than being an entity that contributes to supporting the medical system, but we fully believe that we have a great role in supporting society by standing side by side with various national institutions in facing various challenges.

Devart has already succeeded in overcoming major challenges in the Egyptian market over the past ten years and got well-commended by the local and international fronts. Among those challenges are providing medical solutions through its distinguished products in the Egyptian market, and overcoming the issue of anemia among the two most important groups of society, pregnant women and children by introducing a completely different technology.

These products are characterised by high safety and effectiveness, and the company has also contributed to a number of national initiatives such as Pregnancy Without Anemia, A Childhood Without Pain.. A Childhood Without Anemia" and "Breastfeeding Support" initiative and providing very important products in this important field because of its great impact on the health of both mother and child.

Devart Middle East is a leading group specialised in nutritional additions and cosmetics with medicinal effects. Its headquarters is located in the United Arab Emirates in Dubai and has a presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar while planning to expand to other GCC countries and East Africa based on the industrial partnership with Felix Pharmaceutical.



With over RO 72 million Salalah Free Zone attracts many industrial and logistical activities



Salalah –

During the first seven months of this year, Salalah Free Zone attracted many industrial, commercial and logistics activities whose investment value exceeded RO 72 million. They include the establishment of a factory for petrochemical products, a workshop for maintaining containers, a factory for producing and manufacturing photovoltaic solar panels, and establishing a centre for re-exporting products of home ovens and electrical appliances, and a factory for producing foodstuffs.

Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Tabouk, CEO of Salalah Free Zone, confirmed to Duqm Economist Magazine that the Zone was able to attract foreign direct investments through these projects due to the incentives, benefits, facilities and promotions it offers to investors, business owners and small and medium-sized enterprises from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman. This confirms its efficiency and competitiveness at the regional and global levels. The CEO of Salalah Free Zone said that these efforts come within the framework of the Zone's plans aimed at encouraging investment in the Sultanate of Oman to diversify sources of income and exploit national facilities such as ports and airports in developing vital sectors, including logistics, building and construction services, healthcare services, real estate and providing other materials.

Petrochemical field

Salalah Free Zone signed an agreement with Salalah Petroleum Company to establish a factory for manufacturing and production of

petrochemical products with an investment value of more than RO 33, 835 million over 78,000 sqm of land. The project marks an important addition to the petrochemical sector in the Zone. The plant will produce various types of industrial solvents and other petroleum products, and import and export petroleum products.

Boosting performance of maritime transport sector

The Zone also signed with Majan Logistics Solutions Company to establish a specialised workshop to provide solutions and logistic services, manufacture, maintain, store and provide solutions for the reuse of containers, with an investment value of RO 384,000, equivalent to (one million US dollars), to be an important addition to logistics providers in the Zone. The workshop is constructed over 3,000 sqm of land and is specialised in the maintenance and repair of containers, converting and designing containers into homes, restaurants, workshops and rooms with international standards and specifications.

Solar energy

Salalah Free Zone signed a usufruct agreement with the American Advanced Industries Company to establish a factory for the production and manufacture of photovoltaic solar panels with an investment value of RO 29 million. The project, built over 10,000 sqm of land, aims to manufacture and produce photovoltaic solar panels with a capacity of 200 million watts annually, each of which generates 390 watts of electricity.



Establishment of a factory for manufacturing and producing petrochemical products with an investment value of over RO 33 million



Establishment of a workshop to provide solutions, logistics services, manufacture, maintenance and storage of used containers



Establishing a factory for producing and manufacturing of photovoltaic solar panels with an investment value of RO 29 million

Establishing a centre for re-exporting products of household ovens and electrical appliances

Establishment of a food production factory with an investment value of RO 9.6 million

This project comes to enhance investment in manufacturing sector in solar energy and diversify industrial investments at Salalah Free Zone, in addition to enabling integration with relevant government bodies and the private sector represented by industrial investors to support industries related to renewable and sustainable energy in the Sultanate of Oman.

Trade and logistics sectors

Emphasising the importance of the strategic location of Salalah Free Zone in supporting trade and logistics sectors, the Zone has signed an agreement with Al Awdi International Import and Export to establish a centre for re-exporting company's products of home ovens and electrical appliances to GCC and African markets. The centre will be built on an area of 350 sqm with an investment value of more than RO 96,000 thousand.

Food production

Salalah Free Zone agreed with the Specialised Integrated Food Company to establish a food production factory with an investment value of RO 9.6 million, covering an area of 12,000 sqm, to stand as an important addition to the food projects in Salalah Free Zone.

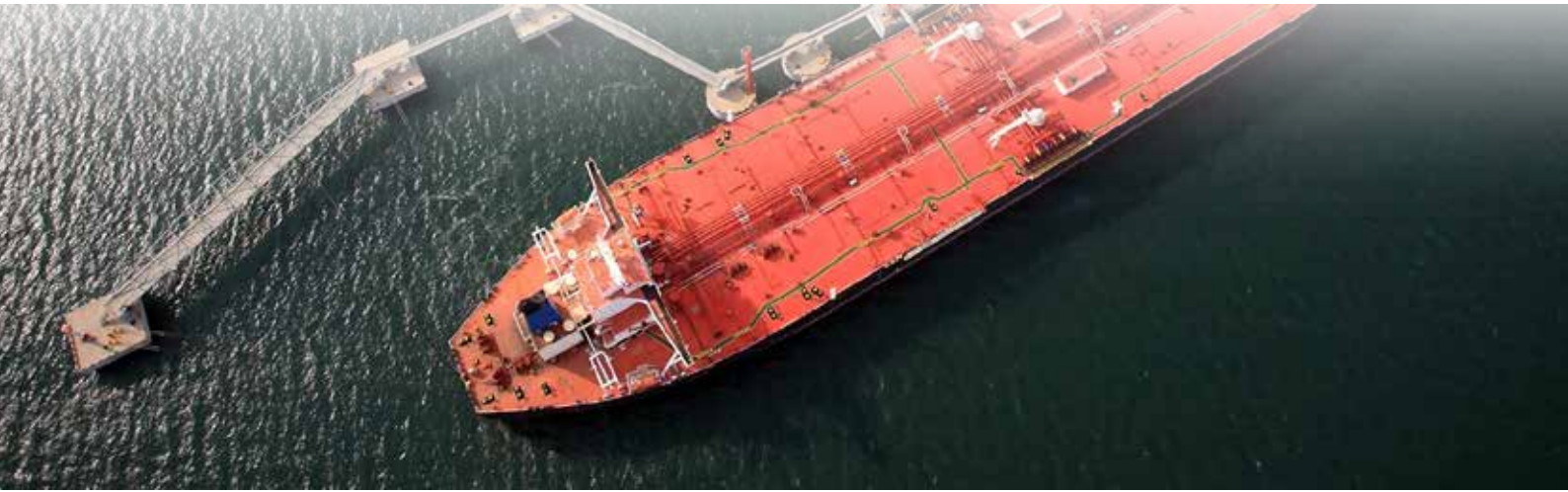
This project comes within the Zone's strategy to be a centre for food industries, where the factory will focus on producing and manufacturing tomato sauce and various foodstuffs.

Logistics warehouse

Salalah Free Zone has signed two lease agreements for Mazaya Logistics warehouses to establish a complex for trading plastic products and another for the installation and assembly of communications equipment over an area of 13.5 thousand sqm, with an investment value of approximately RO 1.3 million. Leasing these warehouses comes within the framework of the Zone's strategy to enhance its economic roles and maximise investment returns to be an incubator and an attraction for many projects and industries. The percentage of the leased warehouse space in Salalah Free Zone has reached 83% of the total area of Mazaya's warehouses, which constitutes an important addition to the existing projects in the Zone, which are witnessing an increase in the industrial and logistical fields in light of the direction of the Zone's management to enhance the volume of investments by attracting quality projects.



With a production capacity of 1000 metric tonnes per day **Exporting the first shipment of liquid ammonia to international markets from Salalah Free Zone**



ONA – :

OQ, the global integrated energy group, announced the start of production of the Ammonia Project in Dhofar Governorate. The Project is one of the key strategic projects fully owned by OQ with an investment cost of USD \$463 million. The Plant has a designed capacity of 1,000 metric tonnes per day (MTPD) of Ammonia. OQ Trading, the Group's trading arm also announced the export of the first shipment of the liquid Ammonia from the Plant through Salalah Port.

Commenting on the announcement, Hilal Al Kharusi CEO of the Commercial and Downstream Unit at OQ said, "the Ammonia project comes within OQ's efforts to enhance the added value of natural resources and support the Omani government's economic diversification plans. The Plant will export its products to targeted global markets, especially in Asia, further contributing to the enhancement of the Omani exports".

"The start of production operations in the plant is a key milestone that enhances the contribution of OQ Group. The demand for ammonia products in the global markets is witnessing constant growth leading to higher returns. This situation renders the project highly feasible" he added.

"This plant is fully integrated with the existing 1 million tonnes per year capacity Methanol plant which will enable OQ Group to rationalize the cost and optimize performance and production efficiency. The new Ammonia plant has been designed to retain the hydrogen-rich purge gas generated by the methanol plant as feedstock for the Ammonia plant" Al Kharusi concluded.

Ammonia is used as a key ingredient in the production of fertilisers and is an important intermediate chemical in the manufacturing of synthetic resins, detergents, coolants, synthetic fibers, and polyurethanes, among other applications. Ammonia is also used in the production of green hydrogen which is a key component of OQ Energy Transition agenda.



A delegation from Kenya Ports Authority visits Al Mazunah Free Zone



Al Mazunah – :

A delegation from Kenya Ports Authority visited Al Mazunah Free Zone to get familiarised with the services provided by the Zone and the most prominent existing and future projects that the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) is working on. The delegation visited the customs yard, which is managed and operated by Al Madina Logistics Services Company. The yard is working to raise the efficiency of its operations in handling and managing the loading and unloading of containers and trucks at the land port. Besides, it is working to develop and improve the system of logistics operations in the Zone in general and to ensure the flow of goods and containers in import and export operations to serve suppliers, exporters, investors and various economic sectors.

Al Mazunah Free Zone was inaugurated on November 24, 1999 as the first zone of its kind in the Sultanate. It is located in the far

southwest of the Sultanate of Oman, standing as the Gulf gateway for transit trade to the Republic of Yemen and from there to East African countries. The Zone is distinguished with different facilities and services such as tax exemption for a period of up to 30 years, customs exemption, 100% freedom to own projects for non-Omanis, exemption from the minimum capital stipulated in the Omani Companies Law, and Omanisation rate of 10%, in addition to facilitating and simplifying the procedures for investors, so non-GCC citizens can get a residency in the Sultanate.

The Zone also offers incentives, including the ease of access for individuals, customers and investors without an entry visa for Yemenis, and facilitating the work of the Yemeni workforce in the Zone without a work visa. In addition to its proximity to Yemeni markets because it is located directly on the border with the Republic of Yemen, Al Mazunah Free Zone offers a set of services, which includes a new road network, water tanks, a fiber-optic communications network, and an electricity and sewage network. Madayn is currently working on other projects in the Zone, most notably the services and facilities building project.



Tatweer Duqm seeks to form new partnerships



Ali Moosa: The plan is to identify suitable sectors with high opportunities, whether in Duqm or GCC countries

Duqm – :

Eng. Ali bin Moosa Malallah, Chief Executive Officer of Tatweer Duqm, stressed the need to move forward with the Company's new and proactive investment plan, which depends on identifying quality projects in the appropriate sectors in which success can be achieved or with those of high opportunities, whether in Duqm or GCC countries.


The CEO commented that Tatweer Company is looking into studying 4 favourable offers for different and quality investment projects that could be joined. He stated, "Since June 2022, we have accelerated the research and study of the proposals submitted for different projects, where the Company can invest, and a detailed study is currently underway for each of these opportunities. The Company may play a major role in attracting investors by joining partnerships in varying shares. This approach may contribute to increasing the confidence of businessmen and investors in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD)".

Company's investment offers

Eng. Ali Moosa explained, "We are working on studying and analysing 4 qualitative investment offers, which the Company can join. The first is in the real estate, which is a large and modern residential and commercial project in the Zone. The second is a qualitative project in the field of fish characterised by its uniqueness. The third is an integrated commercial project, while the fourth is a project related to e-marketing or marketing products or services using digital technology. The details of these projects will be revealed later on.

The most prominent projects developed by Tatweer

Tatweer is currently working on a number of different projects, most notably Duqm Materials Market, which will provide a variety of building materials and sanitary materials. Being the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman, the project brings manufacturing workshops, warehouses and showrooms in one market. The project marks one of the


Studying 4
favourable
offers for
different
and quality
investment
projects



**Accelerated
the research
and study of
the proposals
submitted
for different
projects**



**The Company
may play a
major role
in attracting
investors**

main projects in the Omani-Chinese Industrial City in Duqm. It is developed in partnership with Oman Wanfang Company; the developer and operator of the Industrial City, Al Thabat Holding Company and Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm "Tatweer Duqm". Duqm Materials Market aims to present a new concept of commercial centres in a style that differs from other Chinese commercial centres and malls in the Sultanate of Oman. In addition to showrooms and wholesale and retail stores, the market will also focus on light manufacturing and assembly activities through special workshops, and focus on bringing Chinese goods, products and manufacturing techniques to the Sultanate of Oman, as well as managing wholesale orders for local and international markets. Tatweer is also working on a number of infrastructure projects in SEZAD. A number of projects for the main and internal roads have also been launched, some of which are being worked on and some are still under development, in addition to the construction

of a housing unit for fishermen using 3D printing technology. Further, the Company works on preparing and leveling lands for investments. One of the most important projects that keep pace with urban expansion in the Zone is the sewage treatment plant, which accommodates the treatment of 2,500 cubic metres of wastewater per day. The treated water will be used to irrigate trees on Sultan Qaboos Street in Duqm and supply treated water for afforestation projects. On the other hand, Tatweer Company has started production of primary-processed fertilisers that are used locally for afforestation purposes, while it is looking to develop fertilisers to export them commercially in the next stage. Besides the Company completed the expansion project of water network with a total length of 17 km and it was handed over to the project's final operator. The water network services supply five different zones, namely the Heavy Industries zone, Light Industries Zone, Medium Industries Zone and commercial District in Say Village and Al Amaan District. The project consists of a tank with 40 metres high and a capacity of 500 cubic metres per day.





Company plan and strategy

Tatweer's strategy for the coming year is focused on several objectives, most notably expanding the Company's integrated asset and facilities management operations. In addition, it aims to strengthen its investment arm by joining various projects. Establishing Tatweer aims to ensure the efficient management and implementation of all SEZAD's development projects, as well as managing the different assets within the Zone in accordance with the QHSE regulations. It also invests in commercial opportunities that focus on the development of Duqm and maximising returns for shareholders.

The Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer Duqm) was established in 2014, and it is a spin-off company owned by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones. It is the development arm in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. Over the past years, "Tatweer" has been able to build a highly skilled team of Omani engineers, who have gained great experience in project development, asset management and

investment attraction that enabled the Company to work on projects outside the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

It is expected that the Company will achieve greater growth during the coming period in the field of facilities management after completing several infrastructure projects in Duqm during the past few years. Tatweer Company will focus in its asset management on reducing operating costs and increasing the lifetime of assets. In fact, facilities management opens the door to meet the need of other companies located in Duqm and provide them with facilities management services.

CEO of Tatweer Duqm Company

It is worth noting that the Board of Directors of Tatweer Company, last June, appointed Eng. Ali bin Moosa Malallah for his rich experience in several areas, including integrated project management, facilities management, real estate, investment and public transport. His experience extends to more than 27 years. Two decades of his career journey were spent in Europe, the United States, Japan, Southeast Asia, Middle East and North Africa, where he held various leadership positions in international operations, training, manufacturing, real estate, sales and marketing.



It hosts more than 30 diverse activities AMAD Duqm 22 brings youth activities in innovation, technology, sports and culture

Duqm – :

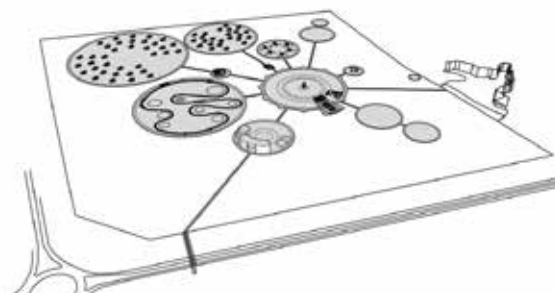
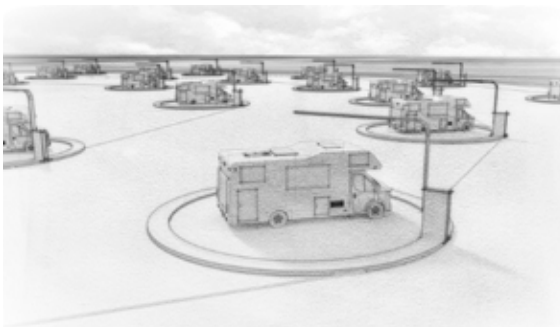
The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, revealed the details of the upcoming youth activity "Amad Duqm 22", which will be held in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD). The 9-day event, to be held in November, will bring over 30 activities in various fields such as innovation, technology, sustainability, recreation, culture and sports, with expectation to attract over 20,000 youth. The event was designed to meet the aspirations of youth to create an innovative pattern in its different activities. Amad Duqm 22 comes in line with the remarkable development taking place in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm as well as reflecting the high attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to empower youth of Oman.

Organising Amad Duqm 22 comes in line with OPAZ efforts to promote the Special Economic Zone at Duqm as a modern, thriving city that embraces art, innovation and youth. As well it aims to place

Duqm among the most prominent modern and future cities in the Sultanate of Oman, due to its independent administrative capabilities and various infrastructure options. The event marks a laboratory that includes many creative fields for youth.

The cooperation between the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones came within the framework of their roles towards empowering youth in various fields, including innovation and technology, enhancing lifestyle, opening business opportunities, and launching youth projects in Duqm. More than (100) male and female youth from various agencies and institutions participated in the collective preparation works for the event.

Amad Duqm 22 is streamlined with "Discover Duqm" campaign that was launched at the beginning of 2021, seeking to market the Special Economic Zone at Duqm as an emerging tourist and investment destination. Besides, the campaign serves to enhance the



AMAD

أمد الدقم 22 AMAD DUQM 22

وزارة الثقافة والرياضة والشباب
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH



الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة
Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones
سلطنة عمان
Sultanate of Oman



الفعالية الشبابية

نوفمبر ٢٢

lifestyle in Duqm. During the press conference, details of the activities and facilities that are being prepared for the event were revealed.

This event comes as a mini-experimental laboratory for the aspirations of Omani youth for the future of the Sultanate of Oman and the world, where the design and implementation processes will be assigned to a selected group of youth. They are required to create a vision that combines science, technology, art and entertainment in a modern form that explores the challenges and opportunities for making a better world.

Amad Duqm 22 event will be held in Duqm, as it holds many experimental opportunities and economic components, as well as it seeks to set an example for work, stay and lifestyle. Duqm is one of the key pillars of the country's economic development, and the nature of Duqm is ideal to

host events, as it encourages visitors to enjoy a unique experience, and tranquility away from the hustle of cities.

The event will be held over (500,000) sqm of area, which is designed in a way that simulates a residential village with integrated facilities. The overall theme reflects innovation, technology, future, sustainability and entertainment. The event aims to empower Omani youth and talents in fine arts, music, and architecture. Over (50) makers and innovators have worked in the event's design and manufacture of technical and mechanical components, while (20) athletes, sculptors, visual content makers and others have contributed too.

Bringing
more than 30
activities

Attracting
over 20,000
youth

Lasting for
9 days of
November



Launching "MEFK Pearl"

Thriving regional marine sector with second ship made in drydock in Duqm



Duqm – :

The partnership between government agencies and the private sector to promote the shipbuilding industry in the Sultanate of Oman

Working to build other ships with specialised uses

Asyad Group announced the inauguration of the second ship built at ASYAD's Drydock 'MEFK Pearl', 24 metres long boat that will be operated at the Port of Fujairah. This new milestone in the Group's shipbuilding journey further solidifies ASYAD's position on the logistics world map as a hub, supplying regional markets with high-tech technologies and turnkey steel and aluminum ships.

Dr. Ibrahim Bakhit Al Nadhairi, CEO of Asyad Shipping and Asyad Drydock said, "This step complements the strategies developed by the Group to support the growth of the shipbuilding industry in the Sultanate of Oman, and expand its portfolio to meet the needs of its customers in both regional and global markets."

He added, "By using aluminum, we have been able to advance our shipbuilding capabilities at the Drydock. Together with our industry know-how and local engineering and design talents, we have been able to provide high-quality manufacturing services to our clients. Our ambitions don't stop there, taking it one step further, we are also building specialised vessels for transportation, modern fishing

and marine research."

Al Nadhairi went on to explain that Asyad is working hand in hand with various government organisations and the private sector to advance the shipbuilding industry in the Sultanate of Oman. The partnership with the private-public sector aims to provide and meet the needs of the local market for multipurpose boats and ships for operations, navigational services, fishing and recreational in addition to maintenance. Speaking about the partnership with the private sector, Hritik Khimji, Board Member of Khimji Ramdas Group, said: "Against the backdrop of building the first-ever modern boat in Oman, 'Hulm Al Behar', we are honored to be part of another joint cooperation with Asyad to build 'MEFK Pearl' which is designed with world-class specifications to facilitate docking support services and crew transportation in the Port of Fujairah. We are here to provide the best services to customers and contribute the Sultanate's efforts to advance the competitiveness of its logistics sector."

Dr. Abdulsalam Omar Al Rabaani, Acting Chief Operating Officer of Asyad Drydock,

added: "The Dock's production workshop encompasses an area of more than 400,000 sqm and is equipped with world-class logistics capabilities and technical equipment, assuring an optimal working environment to construct high-quality vessels with fast delivery times. This has given us the edge to become the centre of all shipping needs from various markets including the construction of ships and vessels of various sizes and uses that are sustainable and environmentally friendly." The 'MEFK Pearl' which is 24 metres long, 6.5 metres wide, took about 17,000 hours to build, and has a carrying capacity of 55 tonnes. It can accommodate up to 25

people including crew members and is built according to the highest environmental and technical standards, passing several performance evaluations tests by authorities in the Sultanate.

It is worth mentioning that Asyad Group integrated its marine services, the Drydock and Shipping, to offer comprehensive and highly efficient solutions — cementing its competitiveness across global markets and maximising the returns of Oman's logistics sector.



The Dock's production workshop encompasses an area of more than 400,000 sqm



The ship is built according to highest environmental and technical standards



Duqm, the Wealth of Earth, Nature and Man



Al Burtmani: The love of place is the reason behind the research to understand social life and the details of the ambitious project

Duqm – **الدقم** :



met with the researcher Maryam bint Said Al Burtmani, History PhD Researcher at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), and author of "Duqm, the Wealth of Earth, Nature and Man" book to shed light on the second edition of her book. She expressed that the love of Duqm and the Bedouin life and desert marks the main motive behind compiling this book. Another reason is her interest to better understand the promising project of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

Maryam said, "Compiling this book took a lot of effort, field work and investigation, with many visits to the Wilayat of Duqm, especially to the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. She further had several meetings with a number of local community members and officials from various government and

private entities in order to develop the content of the book.

Duqm, the Wealth of Earth, Nature and Man book

The book "Duqm, the Wealth of Earth, Nature and Man" came in two chapters with each chapter included three sections. The first section highlighted the geography, history and residents of Duqm, touching on the location of the Duqm, natural and climate conditions, animals, birds and plants that breed in Duqm. The second section included the history of Duqm and the villages and the meanings of their names, the tribes that live in Duqm, traditional crafts and industries, as well as customs and traditions. In this section, the researcher explored the Bedouin life in the eyes of foreign travellers. The third section of the book shed light on the public services such as healthcare services, electricity, water, transportation and communication services.

The book "Duqm, the Wealth of Earth, Nature and Man" came in two chapters with each chapter included three sections



Economy and tourism in Duqm

The second chapter brings three sections, namely the economy of Duqm, the projects in the Special Economic zone at Duqm (SEZAD), and tourism. The first section focused on the definition of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, the On-Stop shop, the services it provides, and the future of the zone according to the perspective of Oman Vision 2040. The second section highlighted the development and investment projects in the Zone, including the marine and industrial as well as logistics services, and the extent of support accorded to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The third section is devoted to the tourism projects and establishments that exist in SEZAD and their tourism attractiveness and qualitative advantages. It touched on the most prominent sites that distinguish the Wilayat of Duqm in general and its proximity to the landmarks that attract tourism.

Duqm is a promising economic city

It is worth noting that researcher Maryam Al Burtmani, in cooperation with the Special Economic Zone at Duqm organised, last December a lecture on "Duqm is a promising economic city". During the session, she touched on the nature, history and population of Duqm, types of crafts, industries and folk arts, in addition to

economic and tourism growth witnessed by Duqm and demonstrated several studies on Duqm.

Omani research team for Silk Road studies

In October 2021, Al Burtmani chaired an Omani research team for Silk Road Studies, an initiative launched by UNESCO with the support of the People's Republic of China. It is a research scholarship from UNESCO for young researchers in the Silk Road and it is part of the PhD dissertation of Maryam Al Burtmani under the title "The Maritime Silk Road from the 11th century to the 19th century and its role in the Omani-Chinese civilisation rapprochement through the trips of Abdullah Al Sahari and Zheng He", which focuses on the results of interactions and cultural exchanges between Oman and China.

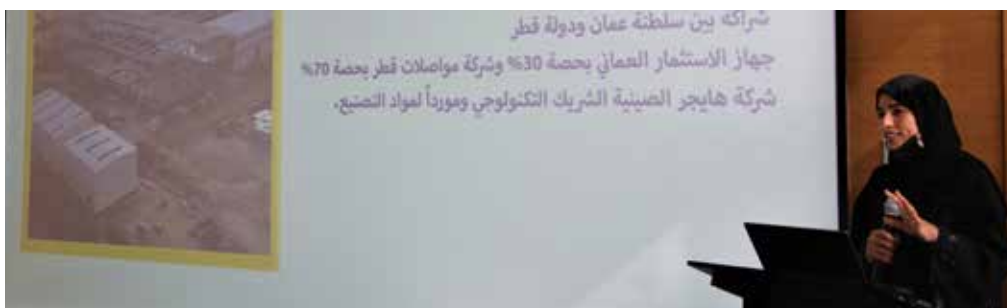
The importance of this research is represented in emphasising the Omani-Chinese relations, which are remarkably developing in recent years through the entry of the Sultanate of Oman into the initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinn (the Belt and Road), which indicates the importance of the geographical location of the Sultanate, as a culmination of the efforts made by Omanis in their communication with China throughout history.



The second section included the history of Duqm and the villages and the meanings of their names, the tribes that live in Duqm, traditional crafts and industries, as well as customs and traditions



The third section is devoted to the tourism projects and establishments that exist in SEZAD and their tourism attractiveness and qualitative advantages





Aisha Al Darmaki

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm

A social environment attracting innovation

The Industrial Development Report 2022 (The future of industrialisation in a post-pandemic world), issued by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, demonstrates the social and economic impacts of Covid-19 pandemic, and the results of existing disparities in or between societies. Therefore, this report focuses on how to adapt the new digital production technology and its contribution to enhancing resilience to health, environmental and economic changes that may face societies in the future.

The report focuses on the ability of societies to prepare for the future, and this readiness includes enhancing their manufacturing and digital capabilities and promoting continuous learning and knowledge exchange. This requires developing local production capabilities on the one hand, and finding means to ensure resilience on the other hand. Hence this aims at accelerating the transition to a green industrial sector, capable of sustainability and social inclusion, which are two of the most important components of industrial policies, based on Sustainable Energy Solutions, and Circular Economy Models.

Preparing for the future is based on establishing national capabilities and working to develop innovation in the national social and economic system. In this regard, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) has established a societal partnership since issuing the Royal Decree No (119/2011), establishing and issuing its system, and then Royal Decree No (79/2013) issuing its system, whether at the level of governmental, private and civil institutions, or with members of the local community. Perhaps, who is

familiar with the Ministerial Decision No (35/2018), issuing a regulation for organising and managing exhibitions and events in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, will find that this decision is based on that partnership, and establishing horizons to support the social and economic capabilities that characterise the national human resources.

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm establishes a partnership system based on achieving social, environmental and economic objectives. Therefore, it contributes to supporting the sustainable development objectives and Oman Vision 2040 on the other hand. It provides an industrial production system that supports added development values, whether by supporting sustainable and resilient social and economic capacity in the face of continuous global changes, or what is called (strength / ability to absorb crises), and (readiness / ability to transform and recover). All of this ensures that the zone presents its capabilities and opens up the horizons of its absorptive capacity to social and cultural activities and events of all kinds. Accordingly, SEZAD seeks to attract young people by hosting various youth events and activities, whether cultural, sports or economic based on innovation, using its geographical location with a moderate climate throughout the year. As well, it offers spatial spaces and hotel facilities that accommodate local and international conferences and exhibitions, in addition to its promotional and marketing capabilities. Therefore, attracting these international and local functions is part of the plans to promote the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. Such activities not only enhance the economic role of the Zone, but

also focus on the social role, building community partnerships that contributes to developing work and supporting national objectives. Planning studies of the Zone indicate that (the number of residents in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm will reach over 75,000 people by 2030. This means that strengthening this partnership is a development priority that supports national production capabilities and social integration, which contributes to the development of the economic system.

The Global Innovation Index 2022 report "What is the future of innovation-driven growth?", issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), finds that "innovative sectors of the global economy are at a crossroads". This is because investment in private capital to finance innovation has been shrinking during what the report called (economic disorder), but it confirms that the number of innovation-related deals increased by almost 50% in the past year. Thus, it makes the link between innovation and productivity very important. Supporting innovation is linked to its ability to support economic and social development objectives and enhance the well-being of societies, which reflects the importance of connecting innovation with national goals and local societal needs.

Innovation as a development ability reflects the state's capabilities in developing human resources and developing a sustainable digital transformation system, on which the innovation regulatory framework is based. Therefore, enabling innovation and maximising its capacity will, in turn, reflect labour productivity gains, economic expansion, and find solutions to the challenges facing the country in achieving development objectives. Because innovation marks development lever as identified by the Global Innovation Index 2022, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm has allocated a zone for the artificial intelligence experiments, drones and future technologies, covering 18 sqkm of

land and an altitude of 80 metres above sea level. The zone is located near the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone and Clean Energy Zone, which makes it a stimulating area capable of connecting innovation and productivity. Therefore, it is an innovation zone based on the development partnership system between innovation and local needs.

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm has contributed to enhancing the developmental role of innovation, through industrial innovation experiments, hosting houses of expertise, and opening the way for innovators, artificial intelligence, drone experiments, and 3D building technologies, which are experiences and initiatives that enhance partnership. It also enables the innovative young people to open training outlets and prospects for the society, in order to achieve development goals, and give youth opportunities to experience and improve local production based on innovation.

Whatever SEZAD is offering to promote innovation and empowering the innovative talents of Omanis comes among the key foundations on which innovation trends in the world are based. This is because innovation is based only on (the performance of the innovation ecosystem) as stated in the Global Innovation Index 2022. Therefore, creating a space for experiments helps in the flexibility of innovative experiences, reveals the challenges facing innovation at the national level, and highlights the national needs in this field. Accordingly, such spaces will provide enormous development potential, and will contribute to strengthening the position of the Sultanate of Oman in the Global Innovation Index. It will further provide innovative solutions to the challenges facing innovation, in addition to being a platform to prepare for the future of sustainable innovation, and linking it to productive capabilities. Thus, it contributes to achieving Oman Vision 2040.



Through Tawasul Charitable Foundation Conducting sustainable development programmes and initiatives for the local community in Duqm



One of the programmes conducted for school students

Duqm - :

Tawasul Charitable Foundation implements a number of programmes and initiatives that aim to give back to the local community in Duqm and Al Wusta Governorate in general. These programmes and initiatives are scattered to different spheres including entrepreneurship, training for employment, education, health, environment. Other projects are directed to support local associations, sports clubs and awareness campaigns touching on health, social and development aspects.

Through its mission, Tawasul Foundation represents a link between economic growth and prosperity witnessed by the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and the local community. Tawasul is a non-profit development organisation, which was established in 2018 as an initiative introduced by the former Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, the currently called Public Authority for Special Economic

Zones and Free Zones, in partnership with 6 corporates. Tawasul aims to plan and implement strategic social initiatives that contribute to the social and economic development of the people through partnerships with companies operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

Entrepreneurship development

"Tawasul" report touched on the "Entrepreneurship Development Programme", which targeted entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium-sized enterprises in Al Wusta Governorate, with the aim of developing business skills. The programme lasted for 3 months and



During First Tawasul Forum in Duqm



One of the programmes to support productive families and empower women in Duqm



Future Makers Programme targeting school students

included several topics such as developing business plans, activities, financial management, legal and marketing aspects, customer service management and supply chain management.

Education and training programme

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm hosted the first edition of the Future Makers Programme, which aimed to keep the young generation in the Wilayat of Duqm updated with the rapid developments in modern technologies and future skills. The Programme, which attracted 150 students, focused on developing school students in grades 8 to 11 in personal and technical skills. The Programme sought to develop students' skills and abilities in dealing with future technologies and their applications, in addition to enriching students' knowledge in mathematics and English. In addition, 250 tablets were handed over to students in Duqm schools and 6 school yards in Al Wusta Governorate were prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Supporting and empowering women and associations

In this regard, Tawasul Foundation, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development organised the First "Women and Society Forum in Duqm". The Forum highlighted women's contributions in various sectors in the Al Wusta Governorate. As well, It focused on their role in the economic development witnessed by the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. With the participation of over 280

women, the Forum focused on women's roles in achieving Oman's future vision. The Forum was attended by a number of officials from the private and public sectors.

Tawasul Foundation refurbished the nursery affiliated with the Omani Women's Association in Duqm, in cooperation with Al Nahda Holding Company. The building was renovated and equipped to be safe, healthy and ready to receive more than 30 children. It is also provided with different educational material to thrive the educational environment.

Health initiatives

In the health field, Tawasul Foundation, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, provided a number of equipment to Duqm Hospital, from which about 200 people benefit from the hospital on a daily basis. awareness activities.


Social care and community development

Tawasul Foundation has implemented a number of community support and social initiatives, such as supporting more than 180 families in Ramadan Basket Initiative, which came through the distribution of shopping vouchers, maintenance and restoration of two mosques, providing electrical appliances such as air conditioning units and providing water tanks in Al Bateen area with a capacity of 10,000 gallons, serving camel owners and those in need in Duqm. In addition, 10 homes of poor families and people with special needs were refurbished in cooperation with the Special Economic Zone at Duqm Management.

Projects and initiatives of Tawasul Foundation between 2021 and 2022

2021 projects and initiatives

Education and training:


Restoration
of yards at 6 schools

250 
tablets

2000 
male & female
students

Community development:

180 
low privileged
families

19 
productive
families

350 
individuals
benefiting from
Ramadan initiative

Supporting and empowering Women and Associations:

180 women participating in
the Women and Society Forum


Training of 20 women in
health and nutrition

Establishing Wadha Café
for productive families

Refurbishment of a nursery of
Women's Association to
receive 30 children



Leading businesses:


Finding 5
new projects


Trained 15
male and female
entrepreneurs

Health:

Supporting Duqm Hospital with
equipment that serve 200 patients
per day



Projects and initiatives of Tawasul Foundation between 2021 and 2022

2022 projects and initiatives

Completed projects



Ramadan basket



Maintenance of
Duqm Mosque and
Say Mosque



Providing water tanks in
Al Bateen area for camels



Renovation of 10 homes
for needy families and
people with special needs

Upcoming or ongoing projects



300 students
trained



Restoration of
two mosques



Second edition of
Future Makers
Programme



Entrepreneurship
Development
Programme 2022



Second edition
of Women and
Society Forum

Port of Duqm presents business opportunities for oil and gas sector



Vermeulen: The vision is to become the region's most preferred multi-purpose port



ONA – :

The Port offers opportunities to accommodate storage and distribution facilities for oil and gas cargo logistics

Port of Duqm Company (PODC), in collaboration with Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL) and Oman logistics Association (OLA) organized a forum on "Business Opportunities at Port of Duqm," which attracted oil and gas companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman. The forum aimed at encouraging business collaboration with Port of Duqm, where large number of professionals from the oil and gas sector joined the forum.

The Port of Duqm is currently supporting the oil and gas industry, serving both the upstream and downstream sectors. Further growth in cargo volumes are expected as downstream petrochemical projects developed in Duqm. Eventually, the Port of Duqm will essentially be serving Al Wusta Governorate particularly, which is rich in oil and gas.

Speaking on the occasion, Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of Port of Duqm, pointed out, "The Port of Duqm is rapidly becoming a new commercial gateway, thanks to its strategic location. While unlocking its full potential to further grow its activities, the Port is opening up great prospects for cooperation, creating business opportunities in the oil and gas sector. It is standing as a port of call and a hub of economic

activity for key corporates and oil and gas players."

"The Port is, further, facilitating the import of raw materials and re-export of goods. Capitalising on its existing infrastructure and abundant land area, the Port offers opportunities to accommodate storage and distribution facilities for oil and gas cargo logistics. This is based on the rise of cargo operations, which we are currently servicing while intending to offer space leasing for cargo too. It is the clear vision of the Port of Duqm to become the region's most preferred multi-purpose port, and the entire marketing strategy is built around that," the CEO added.

On the other hand, Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaei, CEO of Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL), said, "The Special Economic Zone at Duqm is offering several investment opportunities and I've witnessed an incredible growth and development in the recent past. Oman is taking a serious aspiration for establishment of attractive projects in Duqm while the infrastructure is being upscaled almost on daily basis."

Such business forums undoubtedly bring fruitful outcomes and benefits for all participants, including corporates and individuals alike.

To make the most of international expertise

4 Omani engineers enroll in cranes operation training in Ireland



Duqm – :

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), in cooperation with the Irish company Liebherr for the manufacture and supply of cranes for the Port of Duqm (PDC), organised a training programme for four young Omani engineers, including one female engineer holding diplomas and bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and related technical disciplines.

The training for employment programme aimed to empower Omani engineers by enrolling them in these specialised training programmes to benefit from international expertise in various fields, mainly technical and engineering. Upon completing their training, the four trainees will be employed as crane technicians at the container terminal in the Port of Duqm.

The training programme, which lasted for 9 consecutive months, included teaching and qualifying engineers in an Irish university to complete all technical skills and basic practical experience necessary

for understanding crane components, operation, and maintenance. The programme also included practical training at specialised manufacturing sites for these cranes, and would complete the remaining training programme at the Port of Duqm during the cranes' installation period.

Commenting on this training programme, Eng. Ahmed Akak, Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm said that the programme came in line with OPAZ belief in the importance of empowering Omani youth in various fields, especially in specialised technical works in order to build qualified national competencies to operate and manage various operational works in the zones affiliated with OPAZ. Therefore, OPAZ was keen to send trainees to the Irish company that manufactured these cranes to qualify them in the field of managing and operating these state-of-the-art cranes that are characterised by automation and remote-control system".

The trainee, Nasra bint Salim Al Majrafi, said: "The training programme was an enriching opportunity, as we were able to acquire many technical skills in various fields such as security, safety and programming, in



addition to increasing our practical and personal skills in communication, time management, business, organising and arranging priorities, work ethics, problem-solving and crisis management skills at work."

The trainee, Ahmed Said Al Maharbi, valued the efforts made by both OPAZ and the Irish company to provide this training programme, which enabled the trainees to learn more about the technologies and technical specifications of bridge cranes (RTG) and container cranes, their operation mechanisms and remote control. He pointed out that they will undergo practical training on the same cranes after installing the cranes and commencing operation in the Port of Duqm; which will contribute to empowering them scientifically and professionally by applying what they have studied theoretically and practically during the training program in Ireland.

The trainee, Mubarak bin Ali Al Junaibi, said, "Through this programme, I studied at a university in the Republic of Ireland everything related to bridge cranes, including operations, maintenance and control techniques. The programme was sufficient to equip me with many skills in



all aspects of STS & RTG cranes and safety methods in the Port's workplace".

The trainees passed the specified period of training successfully and have proven their competencies and abilities for the next stage of their work mission. Coordination has been made with the competent authorities to hire the trainees as operators of equipment and cranes at Port of Duqm after meeting all training requirements.

By reducing 50% of the services fees

A new package of facilities is introduced to support SMES in Duqm



Muscat –  :
Duqm

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) approved two decisions to reduce fees for the services provided in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD). The first decision specified reducing the registration fees for registration services in the commercial registry and licenses to practice some economic activities, including over 130 activities in SEZAD. This comes in line with OPAZ support accorded to the small and medium enterprises. On the other hand, the second decision aims to reduce 50% of the fees for all services provided in SEZAD for SMEs registered with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, according to the schedule published in the Official Gazette.

The first decision was issued to reduce the fees for some activities for SMEs from RO 550 to RO 5, while the registration and renewal fees for the registering a local company or individual establishment in the commercial registry or registering its branch is RO 30. As for the registration and renewal fees for a joint Omani company or registering its branch is reduced to RO 40 instead of RO1,000.

The fees specified in the decision target the small enterprises that provide service activities, provided that such enterprises are not among the companies operating in SEZAD that are entitled for exemptions, incentives and other prescribed facilities. Likewise, OPAZ has extended the 50%

reduction period of the fees for all its other services provided to SMEs until March 20, 2027.

Dr. Said bin Khalifa Al Tuirshi General Manager of Investment Development at the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), explained that the new package of facilities, approved by OPAZ, which include specifying the fees for registration services in the commercial registry and licenses to practice economic activities for SMEs in SEZAD comes to support thrive the investment environment and support SMES and service providers operating in the Zone. These decisions will contribute to attracting SMEs and stimulating the movement of real estate investments, as well as facilitate their integration with big projects in the Zone. Further, it will meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors to the zone for various services.



It covers over
130 economic
activities



Only RO 5 for
licensing some
economic
activities



This package
of facilities
will boost the
business



Creating a comfortable business environment that stimulates SMEs

Thriving real estate investments in Duqm

Maximising the benefits of businesspersons and owners of commercial buildings

"OPAZ continues to provide facilities and incentives to entrepreneurs, including a 50% discount in its services fees to create a stimulating investment environment for entrepreneurs and present them various business opportunities due to the growth witnessed in the special economic and free zones. The decision will benefit businesspersons and owners of commercial buildings located within SEZAD as this package of facilities will boost the business and demand for these buildings", he added.

On the other hand, the entrepreneur, Mohammed bin Salim Al Amri, from Al Fahas International Company for Land Transport and Heavy Equipment Rental, operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, praised OPAZ decision to stimulate the business environment in the Zone. He noted that this decision will directly serve entrepreneurs and investors to increase their commercial activity due to reducing licensing fees for commercial activities.



Al Amri: This decision will directly serve entrepreneurs and investors to increase their commercial activity

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) seeks to provide the best advantages, incentives and facilities, to create stimulating business environment that enables SMEs to benefit from, and to facilitate OPAZ one-stop shop procedures to ensure efficiency and speed of its systems to serve all zones.



Incentives and facilities for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Duqm



First package

- Reducing fees for all services by 50%
- Includes all institutions registered with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority until March 20, 2027



Second package

- Reducing registration fees in the Commercial Registry
- Reducing licensing fees for some economic activities (more than 130 economic activities), operated by SMEs.



Fees for registration services

Fees for registration services in the commercial registry and licensing of economic activities for small businesses in Duqm

| Service | Fees (RO) |
|--|-----------|
| Registration and renewal of a local company or a sole proprietorship | 30 |
| Registration and renewal of a branch of a local company or a sole proprietorship | 30 |
| Registration and renewal of a joint Omani company | 40 |
| Registration and renewal of a branch of a joint Omani company | 40 |
| Economic Activity License | 5 |

SEZAD's One-Stop Shop stops paper-based transactions

To combat the use of paper documents

Enabling investors to easily obtain all documents and publications that have been converted into electronic copies by scanning the QR code

Allowing investors to save the documents digitally in their computers or phones

Duqm – 

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has announced that it will stop printing and receiving all paper-based transactions and documents at the One-Stop Shop in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD). This environment-friendly initiative aims to combat the use of paper documents in the different zones, overseen by OPAZ. As well, it serves the efforts towards digital transformation and accelerating the process of transactions.

This initiative aims to stop printing and receiving land usufruct applications or any other documents or publications provided by the One-Stop Shop in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm to investors. It also seeks to enhance OPAZ efforts in preserving the environment by minimising the print and use of paper-based transactions.

The environment-friendly initiative enables investors to easily obtain all documents and publications that have been converted into electronic copies by scanning the QR code from the tablets placed at the One-Stop Shop or downloading them from OPAZ website. Getting the electronic copies will minimise the need for printing the documents and allow investors to save the documents digitally in their computers or phones and have an easy access at any time. Further, such initiative also contributes to facilitating procedures for investors and accelerating the completion of transactions at the One-Stop Shop in the Special Economic Zone

at Duqm, in addition to ensuring business continuity.

It is worth mentioning that OPAZ accords a great attention to improving the standard of services provided to investors, meeting their aspirations, as well as enhancing their experience in digital transformation with OPAZ. In this context, OPAZ has launched, over the past years, a number of electronic services that have greatly contributed to facilitating investors' access to different services provided online without the need to visit OPAZ office in Muscat or SEZAD's building in Duqm.



In line with "Together for a Sustainable Environment in Duqm"

Organising a clean-up campaign at the Fishing Port in Duqm



Duqm – :

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), represented by the Environmental Awareness Team, in cooperation with Renaissance Services Company, Sager Environmental Solutions and Marsa Duqm Investment Company, organised a clean-up campaign at the multi-purpose Fishing Port in Duqm. The campaign, streamlined with "Together for a sustainable environment in Duqm" overall campaign, is aimed at cleaning the Port from the different types of garbage, including plastic wastes.

The campaign attracted over 40 volunteers of SEZAD staff and others from companies operating in the Zone. Other participants were members of the marine crew from fishing vessels and boats, which are anchored at the Fishing Port. The clean-up campaign targeted cleaning an area covering around 4.5 square kilometres in the Port. In addition to having the volunteers on ground,

a specialised truck was used in the cleaning process.

Marwa bint Hamdoon Al Hashimi, Environmental Inspector and Head of the Environmental Awareness Team from the Environmental Regulatory Department at SEZAD, pointed out, "The campaign focused on collecting the piles of plastic wastes that are stuck in the Port's basin, which were caused by sea waves and some irresponsible fishing activities. Preserving the environment stands on top of SEZAD's priorities and this campaign comes within the agenda of the Environmental Regulatory Department in the Zone, which brings various activities including environment events on land or at sea. Additionally, organising the clean-up campaigns and awareness programmes will continue throughout the year with the support of community members and companies operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm".



Youth Event "Amad Duqm 22"

The concept of tourism has crossed those simple borders nowadays in order to make a big impact. The statistics published by the World Tourism Organization of the United Nations indicate the volume of income generated by tourism sector in the United States, which reached 214\$ billion annually, while China surpassed the spending to 277\$ billion annually. These figures were recorded before the global pandemic, Covid19-, reflecting the significance of tourism and its impact, which extends to many sectors. Accordingly, governments still strive to diversify their economy and move away from an economy that depends on one or two types of products.

The big figures in spending and income indicate that tourism is standing as one of the best options or alternatives in moving and revolving the economy, while boosting the budgets, generating growth in national incomes, reviving markets, creating business opportunities for small and medium enterprises and offering job opportunities for youth. The importance of this sector and the activities associated with tourism such as the establishment of festivals and the trade movement it generates, operation of hotels, activating transportation, promoting local products or crafts and operation of restaurants will provide generous support to the economy and budgets and will achieve diversification in the national income.

It is well-known that organising festivals is a soft invitation to visit the city, as it promotes a new approach of tourism, while having youth activities on an ongoing basis and in modern ways year after another. This marks a necessity for the city as festivals reactivate markets and bring excitement to the place by attracting youth, families and elders too. Also, it urges innovation and thinking out of the box when introducing services and experiences, and thus tourism will contribute to the development of new concepts in the society, reflecting a further development in social identity.

Tourism industry can be difficult or impossible in countries or cities that do not have competitive advantages, which come in a form encouraging investments and creating partnerships and giant projects in order to bring the concepts of cities with a good tourist nature. On the other hand, the Sultanate of Oman has unique competitive advantages that can constitute a renewed breakthrough in the tourism sector in a number of targeted cities such as Duqm, which has attractive characteristics and landmarks, promoting it to be a unique destination. With its distinguished projects, Duqm can embrace exciting beach activities, in addition to its wonderful moderate temperatures throughout the year, as well as its well-developed infrastructure and modern services. Hence, it can attract the largest types of tourist gatherings in the years to come.

The youth event "Amad Duqm 22" will kick off soon in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. There is no doubt that the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth play key roles in cooperation with a number of public and private bodies that support the event by organising and empowering youth and allowing them to experience a new adventure away from the capital, Muscat, around 560 km away. As planned, Amad Duqm will bring along a package of 30 different activities that will last for 9 days in various fields such as innovation, technology, sustainability and entertainment.



Saleh bin Nabhan
Al Ma'amari

Editor-in-Chief



**The volume of
income generated
by tourism sector
in the United States
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**Tourism is standing
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**Organising festivals
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approach of tourism**