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Editorial

Corporate social responsibility

It is the responsibility of the institutions of the state to create the suitable environment for the CSR. It is regarded the first step towards applying it successfully and properly. In this context, it may be appropriate that our government should adopt in the coming stage the idea of launching an award of social responsibility, which carries the name of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said the Greatest, may God protect him. This award aims at appreciating the leading institutions and companies in the field of social responsibility, and to encourage others to exert more efforts in that field. The award itself could be a privilege for companies and institutions and an asset added to their record in the field of community work. Moreover, the governmental agencies and institutions will be able to supply them with other privileges. On behalf; we announced the launch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and industry Award for social responsibility in its second tournament during 2017.

Here in Oman chamber of commerce and industry, we realize the value of the contributions of the companies and institutions working in the private sector. As a result, we applaud those contributions and initiatives and we squeeze the hands of these companies to do more. At the same time, we call on those who have not yet realized the great importance of social responsibility to carry out their responsibilities towards community. As we call on the Omani media to play its role in lunching these initiatives and to spared them widely.
THE INDO-ARAB PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE ISSUED (MUSCAT DECLARATION)
The importance of this conference emerges from being the biggest event to hold tremendous potentials to identify various opportunities in the field of trade and investment between the two sides through the support provided by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of India and the Arab League. A large number of ministers and senior officials from Arab countries and India, and the heads of the specialized Arab organizations and, about nearly 400 participants from business and experts from both sides attended the conference. Aiming at giving more momentum to the economic and commercial level, and investment relations to higher levels and new prospects for cooperation between the two sides. This conference was held in light of unstable economic conditions and accelerating changes at the international level. In this atmosphere, both sides consolidated solidarity to work in a spirit of cooperation between the Arab and Indian sides to improve relations, build on solid environment, and walk out toward sustainable growth, taking into account the premises of the possible means in order to achieve this.

Opening ceremony

Said Al Kiyumi:

We propose the establishment of a mutual information center under the umbrella of the Arab League.

The sultanate, represented by Oman chamber of commerce and industry (OCCI), has hosted the events of the fifth session of the Indo–Arab Partnership Conference during the period from the 14th to the 15th of December 2016 under the theme: "Partnership towards innovation and cooperation in information technology". Both of Oman Ministry of foreign affairs (MFA-Oman) and the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA-India) participated in the organization of the conference as well as the OCCI. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), League of Arab States (LAS), the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab countries (GUCCIAC), and the federation of Arab businesspersons (FAB) also took part in the conference.

A number of ministers presided over the delegations from India and Arab countries. HE / Ahmed Ben Huli, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, headed the Arab League delegation, and HE / M Akbar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs head of the Indian delegation. And from Sultanate of Oman HE / Yahiya bin Said Al Jabri, President of the Free Economic Zone (Duqm), HE / Sultan bin Salim Al- Habsi , Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning, HE / Salah Al Hassan - Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Sudan, HE Dr. / Jawad Anani -vice Prime Minister / Minister of State for investment affairs Kingdom of Jordan.
The main purpose of this session of the conference focuses on the theme of "A partnership towards innovation and cooperation in information technology." We believe that through the events and the activities of the conference, we will be able to achieve the positive and constructive cooperation in the fields of IT, innovation, and to encourage the practical investment in these vital aspects.

He added that we ought to put into consideration fulfilling two things; firstly, the necessity of drawing a strategy with clear aspects and goals per each session. Additionally, to follow-up constantly the outcomes and the recommendations which should materialize in operational plans to achieve the desired goals. In this context, we believe that we need to reconsider the mechanisms, which are applied in organizing and following-up the affairs of the conference from the presence of all partners in the organization. Perhaps the biggest role in this regard lies with the Arab League as the main sponsor and the incubator of the conference since its inception with special significance also to the Indian partner.

The second thing, which is the most significant, is related to the government representation in the conference that must be on the proper standard of the ministers of economy and investment and the decision makers. As a result, all the difficulties and challenges that obstacle the Indo - Arab cooperation and trade will be tackled and decided about shortly.

In addition to the above, the expected role of the Arab and Indian private sector remain the main engine for any project of cooperation and partnership in the coming stage. Hence, this sector should not only take the initiative to establish new mutual investment projects, but also access to even further by offering integrated and applicable solutions projects to be promoted through the conference and adopted whenever possible.

He also said that the current Indian economy is classified among the best-developed economies globally. We in the Sultanate of Oman as is the case with our brothers in the Arab countries are keen to employ excellence in the Arab-Indian relations in favor of common economic goals service. According to available statistics for 2015, the number of joint projects between the Sultanate and India more than 2,900 projects in various sectors such as construction, engineering, waste management, logistics, manufacturing, finance, information technology, telecommunications, oil and gas and the like. India is among the most important of the Sultanate trading partners. It is the fourth partner in imports and eighth in exports. At the level of the Gulf cooperation Council (GCC) trade between the GCC countries and India in 2014 was about $ 55 billion, according to other numbers; India imports about 45% of its oil from the Gulf States.

At the Arab level unfortunately there is no available information concerning the volume of mutual trade between the Arab countries and India. Therefore, we suggest establishing a mutual information Centre under the umbrella of the Arab league assisted with the businesspersons and the investors to contribute in making the appropriate decisions.

Yahiya Al-Jabri: The Arab and the Indian private sector should play a vital role to increase the common benefits, the initiatives and the partnerships in the field of investment and transferring knowledge and technology.

HE/Yahiya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairman of Economic Zone Authority of Duqm delivered a
The relationship between Oman and India may represent a model. HE M J Akbar, the minister of external affairs in India, in his word; emphasized on the importance of the conference in order to boost the partnership between India and the Arab countries economically and culturally. He pointed that the exchange between them has exceeded $ 100 billion. He added that we are hoping that it will reach $ trillion during the coming three years. He said: “There are about 3000 joint medium-scale enterprise. The average coast of the project exceeds $ 7 million. Additionally the forum in its current session will focus on the IT and if we collaborate, there will be a tremendous opportunity for investment. We have to cope up with the rapid developing world and changing generations”.

M J Akbar said that India is nominated to be a world industrial Centre. He pointed that there are multiple opportunities between India and Arab countries. Moreover, India has actually founded a Centre for development, research, innovation and technology. The Indian industries include more than 20,000 corporate and they earn more than $ 80 billion. It also provides employment for 325,000 persons. He pointed that a large number of Indian citizens was employed in IT industry, which in turn produces about $ 170 billion $ revenues. The exports approximately are more than 110 billion $ annually. India is bracing for the transition under the dynamic leadership of Indian Prime Minister, through the acceptance of radical amendments and administrative reforms, as the law of goods and services provides a framework and one tax across the country for all goods and services until April 2017. Explaining that foreign direct investment had been liberalized to the sector defense system and open the sector to foreign investments.

The minister has stressed on the mutual relationship between the two countries, which represent a model, as the bilateral trade and investment are key pillars of bilateral partnership between India and Oman apart from the close cooperation in the areas of security and defense exchanges between people. The minister pointed out that today there are about 3000 joint venture between the Indian and Omani partners in Oman with total investments reach approximately $ 7.5 billion.

Concerning Arab - Indian economic cooperation and trade exchange, it has witnessed a great increase during the last few years. In that context, we refer to some available numbers. Despite the decrease of oil prices about 50%. The volume of the economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two sides raised since the lunch of forum from $ 114 billion in 2008 – 2009 to approximately $ 120 billion in 2015 – 2016. The volume of direct Indian investments in the Arab countries Such as Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Morocco has reached about $ 15.9 billion during the period 2011 until 2015.
He asserted on doubling efforts to stimulate businesspersons and both Arab and Indian economists to explore the markets. Thus, raise trade exchange and expand investment opportunities on the private sector level. Through acquainting future projects and the new laws of investment. As the private sector represents a major pillar in activating Indo - Arab economic movement, and to construct the partnership that we are looking for.

Senator Nael AL Kabariaty: The strategic partnership with India demands an Arabic awareness that guarantee building up a firm one. "The development of Indo - Arab relations has a distinctive position for both sides as it paves the way to a promising future for their benefit. It helps them as well to maintain their interests in the new multi-polar world in which strategic partnerships between neighboring countries is of paramount importance. Perhaps the efforts made by India at the level of recent years to establish a strategic partnership with its Arab neighbors, which in turn demands an Arab aware that guarantees to build a solid partnership on a proper basis. Consequently, creating a partnership channels in many areas such as trade facilitation and strengthen the link between India and the Arab world ".HE Senator Nael AL Kabariaty, Chairman of general federation for commerce, industry and agriculture, said.

He added: To achieve the desired goals should not be the main bet for India remains related to satisfying their needs of energy and primary resources in dealings with the Arab world. It in turn can be inspired by the success of India's economic, which is due in many respects to the qualitative leap achieved in the field of investment in human resources in the sectors of education and scientific research. On this basis, the Indo - Arab Partnership will be reflected positively not only on the bilateral level but also on the level of cooperation between the countries, particularly in light of the growing impact of the economic blocks on international politics.

He pointed to the rapid changes and modifications regionally and internationally. They need coordination and understanding to invest the provided opportunities and to overcome the resulting challenges. Perhaps the Arab - Indian partnership conference would be a real opportunity to be invested. In addition, to construct a future strategic partnership which demands exerting efforts from the both sides. As a result, we will be able to overcome the obstacles and challenges that face the execution process till now. So as not to repeat the previous mistakes and to search for possible and suitable solutions, to save time and effort as well to step forward.

Dr. Hamdi Al Taba: We have to benefit from the distinguished experiences in India in the sector of high education and scientific research through exchanging scientific missions in the field of education and graduate studies cooperation.

The Chairman of the Federation of the Arab businesspersons (FAB), Dr. Hamdi Al Taba said: India is a strategic trade partner for the Arab region it is the second largest trading partner. The volume of trade exchanges between the two sides amounted to about $ 119 billion in 2015, which constitute India's imports of oil and gas ratio of 77.5% of them. As India is an important investment partner for the Arab region, where the Arab investments in India $ 125 billion, concentrated in the sectors of infrastructure, agriculture and food industries, real estate, oil and gas, information technology and communications technology sectors. Indian investments in the various Arab countries has reached $ 6 billion. We look forward to more of them, to benefit from the advantages of free trade agreements between the Arab states. On the other hand, that linked a number of Arab countries with major global markets as the Euro-Arab partnership agreements Free trade with major markets including the United States, Turkey and Canada. Thus opening up these markets for the products of investment projects that are held in that duty-free countries and that among the many advantages that stimulate businessmen in India for investment in the Arab countries in addition to the advantages offered by the development of regions and cities industrial and free zones scattered in many Arab countries. In addition, an abundance of natural resources and human highly qualified and regulations for attracting investment. In addition to cooperation in the field of transit trade, logistics and services from India to Europe and America across the Arab countries and Arab states to the south and Southeast Asia across India.

It must be noted that there are many challenges in the way of the development of economic relations between Arab countries and India to a wider prospect. We must meet these challenges and overcome the obstacles to get to the desired goal. In the area of trade and if we exclude oil and gas from the balance of trade between India and the Arab countries suffers from deficit in favor of India worth $ 29 billion. As a result, we have to look at ways to increase Arab exports to India of competitive relative commodities such as phosphate and potash, fertilizers and minerals, along with a large number of consuming goods and products.

He added that our cooperation opportunities in various economic fields are large ones such as productivity industries t pharmaceutical, food processing, fertilizer and the transport industry as well as the Garments and leather industry. As the renewable energy sector and information technology, is one of the most promising sectors for investors.
With regard to cooperation in the services sector must take advantage of the distinct experiences in India in the field of higher education, scientific research and exchange of scientific missions and cooperation in the field of education and graduate. Cooperation in the field of information technology and the manufacture of computers especially since India possesses advanced incubators of information technology in Bangalore and Bombay. In addition to infrastructure and construction, sector projects Indian firms have the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of infrastructure projects and reconstruction in the Arab countries, and in the financial and banking fields in terms of promoting the establishment of Islamic banks and Islamic institutions investing money in India; mechanisms to provide funding for projects and trade. On the other hand is available in Arab countries great ingredients to promote leisure tourism and religious tourism from India to the Arab countries where there are holy places. It should be noted that there are about eight million Indian citizen working in Arab countries, mostly in the Gulf countries, India expatriates by about $ 36 billion in 2015 from hard currency transfer, as well as they are contributing to building bridges of culture between the Arab and Indian civilizations.

Key ministerial session: India call for an open – door economy and agree on an investment and cultural framework agreement.

Conference began with the ministerial session led by HE / Yahiya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairman of the Economic Zone authority Adqum. As well as, His Excellency Dr. / Jawad Anani, Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan and His Excellency Raju bar Das- Minister first state of Jharkhand India, His Excellency / Mohammed al-Hassan, Sudan Minister of Commerce. HE Yahiya Al Jabri stressed the importance of development, especially economic relations between India and the Arab countries, pointing to the availability of many opportunities for cooperation and partnership in all areas. However, it is important to prioritize investment to achieve the common goals of all parties.

Dr. Jawad Anani said it was important to take advantage of India’s progress in some sectors, including the technology industry, scientific research and the education sector as well as the industry and the energy sector. Therefore, to take mutual advantage becomes important to agree on an investment framework agreement as well as we are Arabs, we want there to be a cultural framing as we call on India to be more open in the area of allowing taking advantage of India’s technology.

The Senator Nael Kabariti has called on Arab states to build a balanced partnership with India relationship lead to the development process, service and contribute to the exchange of common benefits.

HE / Rajubar Das - Minister first state of Jharkhand India spoke about investment opportunities in the state of Jharkhand. Also pointed to joint ventures with the Sultanate of Oman, including project Bharat Oman and venture refinery (PR I) a project that began in 2011 and with a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day, in addition to projects in the field of construction and infrastructure. The Sudanese minister HE / Mohammed al-Hassan said his country is rich in many natural resources of pastures and water and vast areas of different uses in addition to the availability of mineral resources, noting that Sudan is on track to be the largest gold producer in the continent of Africa.

Sessions and work paper

The two – day conference covered a number of important themes. The first session covered the sector of technology and innovation. It was managed by HE Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Hanai, Secretary- General of the Council of Scientific Research in Oman. It included as well a paper to HE Said Abdullah – First Deputy of trade and industry and Chairman of the sectors of trade agreements and foreign trade in ARE – titled ”strengthen the Indo- Arab commercial cooperation and its turn in developing technology and innovation”. It included also a paper to the reverend Mounir Jumaa, Director General of the Middle East, The General Authority for Investment and Free Zones- titled ”Investment in technology and innovation.” There were also a paper to both reverend Haytin Buta the Chairman and the executive manager to the Indian CGS Infotech Company and Anile Agrawal the Chairman of Cosmos in India. The second day programme started with a session about the sustainable energy and the clean technology. The session was managed by, Eng. Jamila Matter, Director of energy management at the Arab League. It included worksheets by reverend Tariq Amer - an economic research in the organization off Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Starting with the importance of the renewable energy in the mixture of the Arab energy. Another worksheet by Eng. Khalil Bin Ibrahim Al zydi - in charge of the work of the Director of Renewable Energy in PAEW. Another one by Davin Naranjo the GM (partner) to Syndictam for sustainable resources.

On the other hand, the third session reviewed the topic of health and Pharmaceuticals industry. Four spokespersons has participated by four-work paper. The first entitled "Health and Pharmaceuticals industry in Algeria" by HE Muhammad Saleh Al-Agory the Ambassador of Algeria credited to Sultanate of Oman. The other paper by Dr Muhammad Bin Hamadan Al Rabie - Director General of Pharmacy and Drug Control, Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman. In addition, a paper by reverend Waybon Talwar Mulcand GM a group of health care in India.

The fourth session tackled the subject of" high education an improving abilities" managed by Dr Said Bin Hamad Al Rabie – Secretary General in high education council Oman. Dr Mustapha Rashid – the artistic counselor to the chief of the Arabic Academic for marine , technology and scientific research gave a speech about the importance of Indo – Arab cooperation in the sectors of transportation and logistics :
challenges and opportunities. Dr Fatima Bint Said Al Hajry -Director of Department survey of graduates at the Ministry of Higher Education in Oman- introduced a paper " High education in the Sultanate of Oman : graduates qualities and abilities in labour market". Prof Sovic Pataciarya introduced a paper concerning the subject of the session.

The fifth session dealt with two different sectors administrated separately "the food security and safety". The session was managed by He Dr. Hamad Bin Said Al Oufyi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the meeting, which included a working paper for the HE / Salah Mohammed Al_husn- Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Sudan, the title of "food security and food safety ". The working paper engineer .Saleh Shanfari / CEO of Oman Investment Holding food entitled" food security and food safety in the Sultanate of Oman. "In addition to a paper presented by Mr. / Satish Tiwari, general manager of Coromandel International Limited, India.

Concerning the tourism sector, chaired the session. Dr / Thamer al-ANI, the Director of the Department of Economic Relations at the Arab League. Additionally included a working paper by Dr. / Saad Adamen, President of the Arab Tourism Organization Adviser, titled "Ensuring foreign investment." The paper of reverend / Rana Abu Sabiea, Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Palestine titled "Palestine only tourism exports, which cannot be transferred abroad. Exports enjoyed by your visit to the State of Palestine." The paper presented by Mr. / T. S. Darbary, Vice president of Asian – Arab trade chamber.

SMEs Exhibition
The (OCCI) organized an exhibition of products and services for small and medium enterprises sponsoring companies. It included many of the food products and manufactures craft and other products in some sectors. His Highness and attendance from the participating countries toured the exhibition to be introduced to the products and services of the participating companies in the exhibition.

Honoring sponsors and speakers at the conference
The OCCI organized a ceremony sponsored by HE / M J Akbar, Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and in the presence of HE / Saad Bin Saleh Al Kiyumi, Chairman of OCCI to honor the speakers, companies and institutions sponsoring the conference. He distributed certificates and memorial shields at dinner organized by the Chamber for participants at the conference.

B2B meetings between the participating delegations
The first day of the conference included organizing bilateral meetings between the participants in the conference included businessmen, investors and concerned men of Arab countries and the Republic of India, where investment has been available information exchange was also discussed joint opportunities for cooperation and trade.

The fifth Indo – Arab partnership conference from 14th to 15th of December 2016 Sultanate Oman / Muscat issues "Muscat announcement"

In the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the League of Arab States and the Republic of India in order to establish the Indian-Arab cooperation forum in New Delhi, dated 2/12/2008. Fifth Indo-Arab Partnership Conference in Oman held from 14-15 / 12/2016 comes to promote the path of cooperation and build Indo- Arab partnership. It organized the conference under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Kamel bin Fahd bin Mahmud Al Said, Assistant secretary-general Deputy Prime Minister for cabinet Affairs office under the slogan: "partnership towards innovation and cooperation in information technology."

He participated in organizing the conference both from outside the Sultanate of Oman Ministry (MOFA-Oman, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MEA-India), and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), League of Arab States (LAS), Union General Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab countries (GUCCIAC), Arab businessmen Union (IFAB).

He presided over a number of ministers and delegations from India and Arab countries. Where he headed the Arab League delegation HE / Ahmed Ben Huli, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and was the head of the Indian delegation HE / M J Akbar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. It is the Sultanate of Oman HE / Yahia Al Jabri - President of the Free Economic Zone (Duqm), HE Mr. / Sultan Al Habsi - Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning, His Excellency Mr. / Salah Hassan - Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Sudan, HE Dr. / Jawad Anani -naib Prime Minister / Minister of State for Alastmar Kingdom of Jordan.

The importance of this conference in being the largest event holds tremendous potential to identify many opportunities in the field of trade and investment between the two sides through the support provided by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of India and the Arab League.

Congress received in the presence of a large number of ministers and senior officials from Arab countries and India, the heads of the specialized Arab organizations and about nearly 400 participants from business and experts from both sides. The two sides hope to give more momentum to the economic level, and trade, and relations investment to higher levels and new prospects for cooperation between the two parties. This conference was held in light of uncertain economic conditions and rapid changes at the
international level. In this climate, keenness of both sides to consolidate solidarity to work in a spirit of cooperation between the Arab and Indian sides to improve relations and build on solid ground and walk out toward sustainable growth, taking into account the premises upon which the possible means in order to achieve this.

The Indo-Arab relations are rooted, and reinforced in subsequent eras frequently at all levels especially the economic ones, as increased trade exchange volume between the two sides, despite the decline in oil prices, and other factors affected the level of investment and the volume of trade exchange.

The events included many sessions: the opening session, and the meeting of ministerial, specialized session where the investment climate and opportunities in each of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India was presented, as well as meetings between businessmen to offer investment and trade between the two sides opportunities. It was also during the meeting a specialized review of the reality of the joint cooperation relations and discussed ways of enhancing them in various fields, as well as to emphasize the importance of the mutual benefit of experience in both countries.

The conference succeeded in discussing a number of joint investment projects in the public and private levels on both sides.

You can review the most basic points of the conference are as follows:

• Number of participating Arab countries (17), the number of attendees from the Arab ministers (5).

• held a number of (6) key sessions in the following sectors:
  A. technology and innovation.
  B. the health and pharmaceutical industries.
  C. renewable energy and clean technology.
  D higher education and skills development.
  E. food security and safety.
  F. tourism.

• B2Bs businessmen and investors from the Arabs and their counterparts from the Indian side held

• (10) Specialized Arab organizations participated in the work of the Conference.

• Deliberations and negotiations on a number of agreements on the establishment of investment projects in various investment sectors.

The conference also recommended a special emphasis on

• The need to establish a common Arab Indian Chamber of Commerce to be under the umbrella of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

• Work to deepen and diversify bilateral investment links, as the conference suggested the preparation of a detailed study on the provision of data and investment opportunities for the development of the joint work plan.

• Working on the development of capacity building programs in key sectors, especially with regard to SMEs in the Arab region.

• Work to promote cooperation in the areas of innovation, information technology and exchange of experiences between the two sides with regard to this matter.
Shine point institution for printing on screens a dream comes true
Shayban AL – Shaybani .. goals are the fundamental pillars for any institution

Interviewed by Mohammed Bin Salem Al Kalabani

Out of its concern towards business leading, the OCCI Al Dahra governorate branch focused the light on one of the young people who has a great success in entrepreneur’s world.

TO start with, Shayban Al – Shaybani the owner of Shine Point institution for printing on screens about the idea of his projects says: This institution was established on 18th of December 2013.
when the project started as a dream to establish an institution specialized in design/ and print. The starting point was in 2009 through simple designs for individuals such as individual images, logos, procures and pamphlets etc. Our institution is based on piled experience for its staff, the best latest equipment and the highest limits of quality control resulting in boosting it with a strong base of clients.

**Accomplishments**

Concerning our question about the institutions’ achievements, Al- Shaybani says: The institution achieved great accomplishments and participated in many events and exhibitions such as our participation in the accompanied exhibition in the sideline of Vision Award for youth initiatives held in the OCCI branch in Al-Dahra governorate, Business leaders meeting as well. In addition to the meeting of regional municipalities in the state of Ebri. He added saying: shine point institution presents several services, which include banners and signs design, designing all sizes of advertisements and special occasions’ cards as well as feasting and congratulations’ cards and other services.

**Clear defined aims**

Al-Shaybani continued : I was cautious to set up group of aims for this institution which are the fundamental pillar to any one they are briefly, to boost the relation with our clients , to develop our products , to work on new advanced products through research and development and to expand our business by entering in new investment markets ,I worked as well to find a vision concept regarding my institution, which represented in provision of distinguished innovative solutions in the field of design and print.

**Invitation**

In the conclusion Al –Shaybani addressed the youth who desire to enter business leadership world he says : Every young man and woman should figure out creative solutions for the varied transitional manufactures and also maintain distinctive relations with the clients and suppliers . They as well have to boost the role of their institutions in the field of social responsibility consequently; they will contribute in economic growth to our nation.
With reference to social responsibility undertaken by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and its sustainable concern to spread the culture of social responsibility in private sectors’ corporates and institutions, it adopted many initiatives to spread this pioneer thought. HE. Said Bin Saleh Al Kiyumi OCCI Chairman, has announced the launch of the second virgin of the chamber’s Award for social responsibility that aim to spread the culture of social responsibility. Moreover to highlight the distinguished role of corporates and institutions in this aspect. Additionally, to encourage positive competition towards sticking to economic, social and environmental aspects, to enhance the sustainable development goals and to stimulate and estimate the performance of private corporates in social responsibility to encourage sustainability in this field.
Private sector a partner in social development..

In these lines, we will review some distinctive initiatives in the field of social responsibility adopted by some private sector institutions. We will talk in the following lines about "Suhail Bahwan" Holding as an Omani responsible and pioneer institution in the Sultanate moreover Its highly commitment to be an interactive partner in country's construction in the terms of social responsibility. In accordance to this principal, the group pays a great attention to provide the best in each aspect related to people's life. This group has a great influence in enhancing community projects that serve citizens directly as well as supporting the government planes in many occasions. We are recently acquainted with the latest accomplishments of Suhail Bahwan in the inauguration of the new building of Polyclinic and rehabilitation in Khawla hospital supported integratedly by the group.

This building with its services and sections is regarded a good add to the services introduced by governmental health institutions at the Sultanate, that assures the principal of social responsibility among private sector institutions to support many governmental projects. The new building will serve the whole citizens of the Sultanate. There is a great need to such this support. Khawla hospital receives all health situations in in brain, nerves, bones, surgeries and other general surgeries, pointing out that the directives of His Majesty - may God protect him - calling for boosting joint cooperation between the private and governmental sectors and Suhail Bahwan Institutional charity in addition to coming projects financed by them later.

The building services..

The new building with a total cost amounted about RO eight million expanded over an area of 11 thousand square meters over three floors, includes more than 33 clinics providing nine services with related specializations: such as neurology clinics, Neurosurgery, clinics, cosmetic surgery and hand surgery public clinics and dressing and diabetic foot clinics. It will facilitate the smooth flow of patients who are diagnosed to reduce congestion on them, and where there is the largest water hydrotherapy pool equipped with the latest machinery and rooms.

Appreciation..

Ghosn bin Hilal bin Mohammed Al Ebri said: Khawla new hospital at the expense of Sheikh Suhail bin Salim bin Abdullah Al Mukhini Junaibi (Bahwan) recited modest verses For thanks and appreciation for his contributions to community service.
First: General introduction about Free Economic Zones

Free Economic Zones (FEZs) are regarded an economical means used by countries in order to attract foreign investments and to stimulate domestic investments for the benefit of those countries in many ways. Free Zones emergence has been associated with the expansion of international trade movement since ancient times. The need for it increased with the appearance of economic globalization requirements in terms of multilateral trade relations that help in market access, facilitate the flow of goods and services between countries, and organized recently by one international institution, which is, the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Free Zones have developed through history from merely being zones where projects’ facilities are provided with the aim to increase the volume of transit trade to areas where engaged in multiple processes of storage and distribution, industrial and service activities and logistics as well... etc.

Economic Free Zones concept (FEZ) is defined as a geographical space of the hosting state’s region and is submitted to its full sovereignty, where investment activities are organized by measurable, economic and lawful rules aim to attract foreign investments and to achieve the hosting states’ goals.

A study on Free Economic Zones (FEZs) in Sultanate of Oman
Referring that Free Zones differ in form and content from other systems such as: free markets, the drawback system (Reply tax), temporary exemptions system and transit and free trade zones, which is a form of economic block such as naphtha block, etc.

**Types of Free Zones:**

**Types of free zones in accordance with the principle of Location and expanse:**
Free Zones in accordance with the principle of Location and expanse divided into General Free Zones, Special Free Zones, and a whole town Free zone. While General Free Zones (including storage, services and manufacturing) are established next to one of the cities or ports that the country aims to develop. Special Free Zones are of limited-activity mostly in investment in one project to be granted the right of franchise in the region as a monopoly under the system of free zones and required in this type of areas, proximity to raw materials and air and mariner port sites. The availability of places to get rid of manufactural garbage, which in turn requires wide spaces. Whereas whole city of free zones, they are originated as a result of the trend adopted by the hosting country to develop a certain city or region to turn it into an industrial or commercial Centre that help the country to immerge in world economy. This kind of zones is established as a result of insufficient finance of the hosting country to construct an independent free zone.

Division of free zones in accordance with the nature of activity:
Free Zones in accordance with the nature of activity are divided into three sections, which are Trade free zones, industrial free zones and free zones for services. Trade free zones activity focusses on importing various products in the purpose for storage and marketing in the appropriate place and time and with the lest possible coast with the availability of operating slight modifications on the products such as processes of storage, diagnose, transformation and exportation. Whereas Industrial Free Zones are specialized to operate all forms of manufacturing process, where factories established by foreign and local investments are authorized. In order to benefit from the granted facilities to access and reach global markets and they are mostly customs isolated from the rest of the countries' regions. Industrial free zones include free zones for exporting industries and free zones for the ventures focusing on encouraging the local investor to develop a certain region.

The other type of free zones according to the activity is free zones for services and they are regions where investment ventures are established to practise activities related to transportation, banking operations, insurance and any other services needed by financial and customs free zones.

**Free zones' success obstacles:**
It might be easy that a country decides to construct a free zone in one of its regions with the existence of success factors, however; this is submitted to the barriers that could affect negatively on these zones. Which are: financial economic barriers represented in the financial monetary policies instability of the hosting country or in the terms of the budget deficit, inflation and the instability of the exchange rate. On the other hand, the barriers may be legislative and judicial, such as the multiplicity of the legislations organizing investment in the free zones and the legal behavior of the state (nationalization and disrespect for the conventions and agreements) and the dispute settlement mechanism. In addition to the above constraints, the lack of infrastructure that meets their needs and administrative obstacles that are limited to the multiplicity of the authorities supervising investment and duplication of competencies.

At Last, one of these obstacles that can constrain the success of free zones are External Obstacles such as political instability of neighbor countries, political cuts or even consequent obstacles as result of World Trade Organization’s establishment.
Second: Sultanate of Oman and Free Zones experience

Oman borders Saudi Arabia in the west, the United Arab Emirates in the northwest, and Yemen in the southwest. It is more than 300,000 square miles. Geographically, Oman is one of the most varied countries in the Semi-Island. Omani Coast approximates Oman Sea and the Arabian Gulf. The significant strategic Strait of Hormuz is the only water extension between the Gulf and the Indian Ocean that is why it is a vital strait to transfer crude oil, gas and commodities. In accordance with many standers, the Sultanate of Oman possesses various encouraging components to establish free zones and investment. Consequently, turn it into a distinctive region competing many of GCCs and even regional states such as Indian-ocean-rim-countries Association (IORCA), these components represented as follows:

• Distinctive strategic location - a good infrastructure still need development-political and governmental stability-monetary and financial stability-expanded lawful regulations and flexibility-freedom of investment supported by encouraging investment privileges and policies -flexible tax system-diversity of energy sources and natural resources - well-hosting and welcoming investors by all Omani people.

• Sultanate of Oman as well has powerful commercial relations with many countries includes the following commercial conventions and agreements:

• It has commercial relations with more than 140 countries and has about 105 agreements and conventions with approximately regional and international institutions includes: UN, WTO, FTA, GCC, GAFTA, USA, Singapore

Related to our topic concerning FEZs, the Omani government has paid a special and great attention to the FEZs; it issues royal decrees, grant administrative and investment privileges in adequacy with the rest of other Free Zones all over the world. It encouraged as well the constant donation of lands and the infrastructure provision in these areas, thus; reflects the concern of the government to activate the role of FZs in the Sultanate.

Due to this concern, three FZs were announced to be constructed in the Sultanate which are: Sohar FZ - Special Economic Zone of Aduqm - Salalah FZ. All these zones will be reviewed in the terms of location, major plans of activity organize and the most important investment and administrative privileges available in each zone as clarified in the following parts of the study.

First part: Sohar Free zone

Sohar Free Zone history and establishment objectives:

SFZ established due to the Royal decree No (123/2010) issued in 20th of December 2010 run and operated by SFZ Company, a governmental one. SFZ is classified in accordance with the terms of location and expanse as a whole- town freezone. Moreover, in accordance with the terms of activity nature, we will find out that it is classified according to the terms of: Trade Freezone and Industrial Freezone. We will widely identify the basics and standers, which make Sohar Freezone distinguished, through study and analysis of its strategic location and its specified main outline of its activities in addition to investment and industrial privileges as follows:

The importance of SFZ as stated in its special vision revolves around boosting its role in the region as a pioneer economic zone regionally and internationally, resulting in making Oman as a destination for investors and business holders in commercial, industrial and logistic fields. The general objectives of constructing Sohar Port and FEZ are concentrated in operating them the favorite choice for companies regionally and internationally through holding distinctive commercial relations between the Sultanate and these establishments by working on developing the abilities of clients by the provision of all facilities, which enable the success of their economic commercial enterprises in the region.
Strategic Site of Sohar FZ:
Sohar Freezone is situated in the middle of Al-Batinah in the Northern of Oman and it is a major area for investment due to geographic site, economic resources and high population. Al-Batinah has played a vital role in the history of Oman. It has been always the maritime commercial exit at the Gulf and Indian Ocean and its mineral resources provided the basis for many heavy industries.

The above figure shows the location of Sohar strategic area, which makes it benefit from the enviable position outside the Strait of Hormuz, which means that you can reach more than 3.5 billion consumers across the bay by land, sea, or air, without the need to enter it. SFZ sit in the center of world trade routes between Europe and Asia, which is also the cornerstone of the fast-growing infrastructure in the region and ways in land, air and railways, and telecommunications services.

SFZ major plan of activities and specializations:
The master plan of SFZ refers to specifying more than 5 million Square Meter with direct connection with Mariner Sohar Port, railways, Sohar and Mathak International Airports which in turn decrease the expenses to about RO 25 million and investments estimated to about RO 25 million.

The important activities and specializations that characterize Sohar area of industrial sectors and investment opportunities will be displayed as follows:
Sohar Port and Freezone are regarded a logistic home, it includes petrochemicals manufactures, minerals, vehicles (food as well soon) and these are the groups which feed the transformative industries with iron and steel, plastics, rubber, ceramics, chemicals, among other materials.

Sohar Zone includes three major groups available in the port – logistic services, petrochemicals and minerals- Soon, for the first time in the Sultanate of Oman a station for processing of agricultural bulk will be constructed. It is a new add to manage strategic food supply in the country. The figure below and the timetable show the most important invested industrial sectors in Sohar FZ:
Sohar Freezone investment opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage and assembly industries</th>
<th>General strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agricultural industries - Storage - Packaging</td>
<td>Agricultural substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>long-living products: rebar, light section, wires, paper plates, short-living products</td>
<td>Iron Manufactures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major facilities and investment incentives in SFZ

A. air and sea transport services: through the forms below clarifies the possibilities of conductivity from Muscat to Sohar by air, land and sea and Sohar to all GCC countries, there will be transportations in the future to Salalah and Aduqm through charging station adjacent to the Port and SFZ.

Concerning air transport, Sohar Airport and the cargo terminal with a capacity of 50,000 tons annual transfer and from Muscat International Airport approximately 100,000 tons of cargo annually. After the expansion, it will increase to 260,000 tons annually. In addition, the railway project, which is under construction, which is expected to add to SFZ another dimension in terms of the facility and the multiplicity of available means of transportation.

B: Administrative incentives and tax and customs exemptions in Sohar Free Zone (SFZ):

- The possibility of constructing 100% Foreign – possessed companies
- Non-restricted imports or capital transfer and freedom to return capital
- Exemption from corporate tax for ten years and can be up to 25 years in the case of the application of Omanisation policies from the start of business history
- Non-compulsory minimum amount of capital or capital currency type specification
- Exemption from municipality fees or real estates or lands except for the fees deserved by the single station
- No taxes over individuals income, imports, exports, and re-exportation
- The minimum required amount of Omanisation is 15% increasing to 25% after ten years, 35% after fifteen years the 50% after twenty years
- Work by the way of single terminal or station
- Non-customs duties to individuals working in the Free Zone

In addition to the above, the GCC customs Union and free trade agreements in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in early 2015 and the Free Trade Agreement with the United States will provide to the Sultanate of Oman through the port and Sohar Free Zone changing logistics game bases in the Gulf countries and the entire region.
Development services and productivity:
Sohar Zone contains also independent stations run by world pioneer countries that include C. Steinway Oman for general commodities, which is a common enterprise between Oiltanking and ODFJELL for cargo transport; Hung Kong On based Hutchison Whampoa for containers for containers transport. On the other hand, available vast areas existed in Sohar Zone to be easily rented. The first phase of the free zone is completely rented three years before the exact time. There about 26 companies had already acquired great benefits as a consequent of the law cost energy, the existence of skilled labor force and one shop for rent services and available constructions of storage operations. In Sohar Freezone, there are other opportunities represented by Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries (ORPIC). It expanded its capacity of its refinery, from 120,000 to 180,000 barrels per day; five ferrochrome smelters are under construction on the Freezone, and we will soon be responsible for managing Oman’s national food reserve once the country’s very first terminal dedicated to handling agricultural commodities is built.
In the near future deal $ 60 million deal the Union led by Britain in the auto industry to the founding of the largest complex of metal smelting process in the region in addition to agreements with two major manufacturing and assembling cars are Toyota institutions - Datsun - Nissan and Hyundai.

Origination and establishment history of Duqm SEZ
The Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD) has been established as per the provision of the Royal Decree No 85/2006 whereas Duqm common port between Sultanate of Oman and Antoyrb consturiom port as per the provision of the Royal Decree No28/215 and supervise SEZDA constructed in 2011.
In accordance with the vision based on the operation of constructing SEZD, represented in boosting its position as a logistic bulk terminal on Arab Sea, a home for safe investment, developed business environment, a distinguished tourist destination to raise the national economy and variety of its different sectors. SEZD stretches over 1,777 square kilometer with 80km long over Arab Sea. Special Economic Zone (SEZAD) is regarded the largest in the Middle East and Northern Africa and is classified among the major economic areas in the world. Economic Authority of Duqm SEZ expects that this location will achieve the balance of local development through activating the economic role of Al-Wasta governorate. It will contribute as well in the diversity of national income sources, provision of job opportunities for Omanis, to support the sector of re- exportation and advanced technology transformation to Sultanate of Oman.
Duqm Zone classified in accordance with the terms of location and expansion as a whole town Free Zone. Yet if classified in accordance with the terms of activity nature, we will find that it is classified among the terms of Trade Freezone and Industrial Freezone. Here we are going to identify in details the basis and standards that distinguish SEZD through a study and analysis of its strategic location and its master plan identifying its activities, in addition to the most significant administrative and investment incentives as follows:

The strategic location of Duqm Special Economic Zone:
In the heart of Duqm Port highlighted the strategic geopolitical site as being far away from Hurmz Strait and Arab Gulf. The Omani government seeks to benefit from this characteristic location because it highlights Duqm as an appropriate destination for economic and industrial investment due to safety and stability. The Sultanate actually is prepared to grab the fruits of the country’s international reputation as being a calm oasis, peace and regional reconciliation flag holder. SEZD is distinguished by the existence of Duqm Port, which is an integrated part of the established ports in the Sultanate, as it will play a pivotal role in the development of the central region. The inner basin of the harbor depth reaches 18 meters and includes a commercial wharf 2.25 kilometers and a width of 350 meters and is able to accommodate
eight ships at the same time. In addition, the port will contain a government wharf length of one kilometer dedicated to the Royal Navy of Oman and coast Guard police. In addition to the jetty for handling liquid bulk cargo and oil derivatives. When the second phase of the project completes, the pelvic area will increase to 6.5 square kilometers and 13,500 meters will be added to the commercial docks allowing lining up more than 36 vessels. For operating the port on a sound commercial basis, it has been the establishment of the Port of Duqm Company, a joint venture between the alliance of the port of Antwerp and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman. The company is responsible for the management and operation of the port in accordance with best international practices, and business development related to port services, and expand the base to deal with the world navigation companies.

The major activities plan in SEZD:
Duqm Special Economic Zone is a model of economic integration, since it include eight economic and service-development areas, namely: a multi-purpose port, dry dock for repair of ships, fishing port, tourist areas, industrial, logistics, an educational city, modern and residential city. All of which is served by a network of multimedia transfer include a regional airport, a multi-purpose port, railway and road network linking Duqm with different regions of the Sultanate and the GCC, and then the Middle East, East Africa and Southeast Asia. You can recognize the importance of the site and the transportation services, which make Duqm Special Economic Zone privileged place to attract investment through a review of the following points:
A. air and land transport system at SEZD:
The Structural plan for Duqm includes on the rehabilitation of the zone as a land, sea and air multi-transport station as well as the railways. The Government of the Sultanate is now completing studies on the establishment of a national railway line, which includes in its first phase, linking the United Arab Emirates with the Sultanate up to the capital, Muscat. In second phase delivery of the railway to the Duqm area and then to the city of Salalah, and will use the railway to transport goods and passengers between the cities of the Sultanate and its environs from the Gulf cooperation Council (GCC). On the other side, the Duqm airport, which expected to run in the year 2015, is of the most important means of connecting Duqm Special economic zone with the outside world. For transporting passengers and cargo. The airport has a runway designed to receive all types of aircraft and different sizes, and a passenger terminal with a capacity of 500 thousand passengers a year. Which gives the area a direct flight linking the capital Muscat and other regional airports in the Sultanate of Oman and the Gulf region and the rest of the world.

B. Refineries and petrochemicals complex
A joint investment alliance between «Oman Oil Company» and «global company to invest in the UAE's oil is currently agreed on the implementation of an oil refinery with a capacity of $ 230 thousand barrels per day, which constitutes the first phase of their program of investment and access to the refinery operation in 2017. While the second phase will include the establishment of a petrochemical complex includes breakers oil for raw materials, and polypropylene plant and other organic aromatic compounds and others. This and the establishment of this complex will open the horizons for many investment opportunities in the field of manufacturing, based on their input to the oil derivatives generated by oil refinery and the associated petrochemical complex.

C. Industrial Zone:
An area of 365 square kilometers has been allocated to industrial and logistical use, the comprehensive plan of the industrial area and the development of an integrated industrial strategy are operated through identify the targeted industrial sectors, such as petroleum refining, petrochemical, metal transformation, inorganic chemicals, construction materials, fish farming and food industries list them, and clean technology. The industrial zone site near the port and the airport makes Duqm attractive industrial place to invest. A well as the easy access to Southeast Asian markets, the GCC countries and the Middle East and North Africa, enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman's trade relations on a preferential basis. They also provides safe supply from oil and natural gas, and the availability of non-mineral raw materials in Al-Wasta governorate. All of which represent additional factors for the growth and prosperity of the industrial sector in the Duqm Zone.

Logistic services
SEZD enjoys a high relative features enable it to be a world regional station for transit trade, storage services, distribution and transportation. This feature based on the strategic site of Duqm located in the world lines of navigation and approximated to the trade markets in East southern Asia, the Eastern coast of Africa and regions of oil supply in the Gulf. In addition to the availability of vital transport commodities such as ports, airports, ships maintenance services and efficient highly-developed infrastructure.
Dry Dock:
The dry dock at Duqm is reported to be the second largest of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa. It consists of two docks that are 10m, which one dock is 410m by 95m, and the other is 410m by 80m. Furthermore, there is a 2.8 km of quays available for additional ships to be repaired. Ten ships can be repaired at the same time. Including all kinds and sizes of ships including commercial, tourist, oil and cargo ships and the plans include adding a floating dock to raise its total capacity and to increase the operational efficiency.

Fishery Harbor
The Arabian Sea is rich with fisheries resources, which include different varieties of fish in addition to favourite Omani crustaceans' species, all of which are in great demand in neighboring countries as well as Europe. Efforts are made to exploit this dynamic comparative advantage of Duqm's traditional affinity to fishing activities through constructing a harbor and an integrated complex of fisheries activities. This will encompass:
- A fishing harbour at-6m depth with all facilities required to accommodate small and medium size fishing boats.
- Retail, wholesale and export markets.
- Setting aside enough land area to house fish processing, canning, fish oil and animal feed industries.
- Fish & shrimp farming.
- A training Centre and extension services.
- A marine research centre.
- An international standards quality assurance centre for fresh and processed fish exports.

New Duqm Town
An area of 2290 km² has been designated for the new frontier town at Duqm. This will be the backbone of the development area and initially will accommodate up to 67,000 people with further provisions to extend it to 110,000 residents. Duqm's new town will be a sustainable community, a model of contemporary urban planning with due consideration given to Omani culture and the local environment and the catalyst for the envisioned urbanization and commercialization of Al-Wasta region. Along with town mosques, a variety of indoor-outdoor sport facilities and a youth stadium are proposed in and around Duqm. The proposed town center will boast a regional hospital, a business district, administrative offices, parks and a public library, as well as malls and other high profile facilities. The town constitutes a major element to raise investment attracting and to increase the benefit of job opportunities for the Omanis.

Hotels & Resorts
Duqm must retain its old world charm and local Omani heritage. Care is being taken to realize these goals. Attention is being paid to preserving the unspoiled beach with its migratory birds and its historic antiquities in order to make Duqm an attractive tourist locale. The pre-historic ‘Rock Garden’ is one such attraction. The Oryx preserve, the Wadi Al-Sayy Natural Park, the Al-Shuwyar Tourist Village and the Masirah Island are other tourist attractions near Duqm.

The designated tourist area occupies 26 km² and includes an 18km stretch of beach on the pristine Arabian Sea. Two upcoming hotel resorts are already under construction. One is the Duqm Beach Hotel - Crown plaza a four-star beachfront hotel being built with about collaboration with the Intercontinental Hotel Group and slated for completion by the end of 2012. The hotel will meet the needs of both business and recreational visitors by offering 200 deluxe rooms, 11 executive suites and 8 spacious family suites, as well as a spa, a fitness centre, tennis courts, a banquet hall, a business centre and meeting and conference facilities.
There is also Al-Madinah hotel, includes 118 hotel flats equipped with all facilities. The third hotel is a floating hotel on the shape of a ship; it includes 208 suites, a pool, and multimedia hole. Duqm’s elaborate plans also include a relatively large public beach area offering a variety of water sports to accommodate residents’ recreational interests.

Education Town
Serve government educational Duqm Zone that provides basic education in the Arabic language to the citizens of the people of the region, is planned to invite the private sector to establish educational private schools rely bilingual curriculum internationally accredited not only to serve the expatriate community but also to be available for all residents in the region. The embodiment of the future vision for Duqm and of creating local community is expected to attract higher education institutions and vocational training centers and centers for research and development to achieve two main objectives. The first is to raise the efficiency of national employment and increase their chances to take advantage of the new jobs in the region in various economic sectors, and the second is to give young Omanis skills in small and medium enterprises sector to provide Support for projects that will be held in the region. Curriculums will focus on information and communications technology, clean technology, maintenance services, tourism and professional services.

Power supply
The electricity company creates a power station diesel capacity of 100 megawatts, with energy generating capacity of 11 kV and then be raised to up to 33 kV using three-crane adapters. Moreover, there are currently plans to create a centralized power station powered by natural gas. As well as the establishment of a desalination plant technology, reverse osmosis production capacity of 10 thousand cubic meters per day. On the other hand, Oman Natural Gas Company will supply Duqm needs of natural gas from the site of the fields in the central region.

Administrative incentives and tax and customs exemptions in Duqm Special Economic Zone
- Up to 100% foreign ownership companies
- privileges of the right to use and develop land use rights of up to 50 years, subject to renewal
- The imported goods, capital transaction or return, are not subject to any restrictions
- Exemption from taxes up to 30 years
- No currency restrictions.
- Minimum amount of capital or defining a certain kind of currency are not submitted to any conditions.
- No restrictions over currencies concerning imports and exports
- No taxes over individuals incomes, exports, imports and re-exporting
- Working by The one-stop station
- An appropriate investment environment with many logistic solutions
- Is a major terminal to many promising coming markets
- A transit station to charge cargoes
- Approximate to oil and natural gas privileges domestically and mariner
- Law-cost lands
- Available natural resources

The third part: Salalah Free Zone

SFZ origination and history:
Salalah Free Zones in Oman was established in 2006 through the Royal Decree No. 62/2006. The general objectives of the establishment revolve around attracting vital enterprises in the sector of logistic services, storage, and re-distribution as well as waving industries, petrochemicals industry, the basics of medicine, pharmacy, and vehicle recycling install assembly projects and many other projects that add to the national economy. As a result, SFZ classified as a free trade zone and industrial zone as well in accordance with terms of activity and specialization.
Here we will identify the characteristics and features of SFZ focusing the light on strategic site, master plan of activity in addition to investment and administrative incentives as follows:

**Strategic location of SFZ:**
Salalah is situated in the heart of markets main transporting centre, which include East of Africa, GCC and Indian semi continent that import more than $620 billion of commodities and materials annually. Consequently, the provision of attracting regional market for the investors. Moreover, Salalah Free Zone is characterized by the presence of Salalah port and an international airport and major road network associated with the markets of the Gulf Countries Council (GCC), will be in the future reaching the railway linking the GCC network. As the navy Interconnection Service - competitive air from Asia to Europe, they provide 48 hours of the time of the arrival of shipments.

What distinguishes the Salalah Free Zone (SFZ) also the strategic port through which can provide regular weekly shipments to global centers (e.g. 23 shipment to Europe 0.21 shipment to the Indian subcontinent 0.13 shipment to Asia, and 11 shipment to Africa). As a result, import and export shipments take less than 30% to 40% on average for other sites of competition (for example, 15 days to New York, 12-day to England, and 8 days to Singapore.

**Master plane of activities in Salalah FZ:**
The activities in SFZ include assembling, manufacturing, logistic services and distribution on the other side the strategy of the zone focuses on exporting activities that provide the zone with the following competitive features:

- Easy access to markets.
- A site close to sources of raw materials, whether natural mineral resources or non-metal, to meet regional demand through imports, and business activities are currently offered through global trade flows.
- Competitive costs in terms of lower labor costs and service fees
- Providing customs costs thanks to agreements with the United States of America Free Trade Agreement.
- Strong communication with the world - mainly through the port of universal chargers.
- In this context, three compounds for companies operating featured in the following areas:
  - Treatment of chemicals and materials
  - Manufacturing and assembly
  - Logistics and distribution, with absolute confidence in the possibility of reducing the total cost of charging and discharging.

**Manufacturing and Assembly:** The Manufacturing and Assembly cluster includes capital-intensive activities and labor-intensive assembly of equipment such as machinery, electronics, transport, and medical apparatus. This could also include assembly of consumer goods such as furniture, food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics extending to other industries as well such as energy and alternative energy turbines and tools and garments and textiles.

The Logistics and Distribution cluster embraces all intermodal global logistics activities of processed materials and manufactured goods in the Salalah Free Zone, as well as goods being stored and handled in the Salalah Free Zone prior to re-export. It also includes logistics MRO and general distribution activities primarily for the Indian Ocean.
Deutsche Post DHL group includes five different sections, including Mail and Express Mail and clearing and forwarding, procurement and financial services. Saga Company was founded in order to provide its expertise in the development of land management and leasing of warehouses for the operation and development, import and export of products in collaboration with various working institutions in the field of clothing, footwear and accessories in Salalah Free Zone.

Salalah area overlooking the regional market worth more than $600 billion the United States and global expansion reach to 1.2 trillion of competitive imports there is a facility to get on a low-cost labor and access to local workforce and expatriate qualifying in the center of the world. Salalah area is also characterized that within 2 weeks shipping reach most of the market with access to all means of transport. From an administrative point of practice of business, the region or one-stop available in Salalah Free Economic Zone, which provides the following services: investment Incentives:

- reserve trade name , trade register extract and a certificate of membership
- extraction labor permits and visas
- ratification of Origin certificates from the competent authorities
- ratification of the customs clearance for the free zone in Salalah for import and export operations and re-export forms
- ratification of the corporate staff working in Salalah Free Zone decades the Ministry of Manpower

The Omani business environment offers businessmen, entrepreneurs and multinational organizations several incentives that provide ease, security and profitability.

- Investors are allowed up to 100% ownership
- There are no import restrictions or restrictions of repatriation of capital.
- Exemption of income tax for 30 years once starting a commercial business
- No minimal capital requirements or defining currency
- Exemption from municipality fees or real estates except the fees of the one-stop
- Possibility to establish representative offices inside the customs area in the Sultanate
- Omanisation 20% only at minimum
- Special protection of intellectual property safeguards,
- export risk insurance
- access to business loans

Concerning commercial conventions and agreements: the free trade agreement between the United States and Oman allows benefit from significant tax exemptions on fees. FTA is the perfect opportunity to attract companies wishing to reduce their costs, especially those that produce at least 35% of their value in the Sultanate of Oman. Free trade agreement stimulates in particular many sectors such as electronics, textiles and other consumer goods and products, which are traditionally exported from Asia to the United States of America, privileges and incentives factors, are sufficient to marketing Salalah Free Zone. In addition, tenants can in Salalah Free Zone start practicing their business in an excellent duty-free environment.

References:

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- Johan Kriel – Chief Commercial Supply Chain Manager Tel: (+968) 2460 1003 Email: Johan.Kriel@salalahport.com
- Ali Tabook – Chief Commercial Officer Tel: (+968) 23 212 999 Email: ali@sfzco.comwww.soharportandfreezone.co
Vibrant Ceramics exhibition and summit

Eng. Reda Al Saleh: Commercial delegation is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to be acquainted with the latest world developments in many sectors.
compared to products on the market. Therefore, we call upon everyone who has a desire to expand or enter the field to take part in such visits for exhibitions and specialized forums.

Hamadan Al Rabbi thank OCCI for such initiative, which enables businesspersons to determine the correct destination and the positive step to promote his institution. Moreover, to open the doors to constitute economic partnerships with other businesspersons of the same field in other countries.

He added that we benefit a lot from this delegation and from the participation in the events of Viprant exhibition and summit at Islamabad India, through which we are able to encounter a great group in the same field to benefit from their experience and to work later in forming new economic and commercial partnership.

Hasan Abdelrasoul , the representative of Mazaya company for global services said that the philosophy of operating commercial delegations and exchanging experience between businessmen from different parts of the world enable entrepreneurs to constitute a solid base of partners.

It also assist in establishing joint ventures. Some of the delegation members agreed on cooperation between them and the participants of factories owners. I hope that SMEs’ owners as well to benefit from delegations and to take a promising step to make the best use of it and to plane for their needs before they departure the Sultanate. Thus, achieving the desired goals.
The state's budget for the fiscal year 2017

A package of procedures and policies to reduce the impact of declined oil prices...

On the issuance of the supreme Royal Decree No. (1/2017) to ratify the state budget for fiscal year 2017, the Ministry of Finance, in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning provide a statement of expected fiscal year financial indicators for 2016 and the most important features and estimates of the general budget for the fiscal year 2017.

The state budget was affected largely by a sharp decrease of oil prices, which began to decline since mid-2014 and continues till this day, as it enters its third year. Where public treasury of the state during 2016 lost more than (67%) of oil revenues, compared to its level in 2014, in spite of the high production. 2016 has witnessed the lowest traded price of Omani oil, as amounted during January to below (24) dollars a barrel. However, the government was able - thanks to God Almighty - to provide the necessary funding for the expenditures and achieve good results, taking into account the scale of the challenges that have been encountered. Through the application of a package of measures...
and policies, that have had a good effect in reducing the influence of oil prices decline on the financial and economic performance of the state. Concerning the general framework of the budget in 2017, it is a continuation of the approach adopted during the past two years aimed at rationalizing expenditure, raise its efficiency, return it to sustainable levels, and continue to review the non-oil revenues in order to increase and raise its contribution to total revenue and reduce dependence on oil revenues. To benefit from any increase accomplished in oil revenues during the year to cover the fiscal deficit of the budget and strengthen reserves. It is worth mentioning that the final preparation of the budget has been drafted after presenting it on each of the Financial Affairs, Energy Resources, the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman. The following is a brief overview of the most important preliminary results for the fiscal year 2016, the most important features of the budget in 2017, and its contents from the policies and procedures:

First: National and world economy developments:

1. World Economy:
The global growth horizons remain surrounded by uncertainty because of several factors, including re-correction and planning processes are under way, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies. It is expected that global growth will rise from (3.1%) in 2016 to (3.4%) in 2017 with a disparity in growth rates between countries of the world. Commodity prices are expected to continue low-level, and that the global inflation rate remains low. It is expected to fall all the major commodities price indicators in 2017 due to abundant supplies and weak demand for industrial goods.

2. National Economy:
The economic performance of the Sultanate was affected by the decline in oil prices, the domestic product declined at current prices during 2015 increased by 14% compared to its level in 2014. It decreased from (31.2) to (26.8) RO billion due to the continued decline in oil prices. The local output decreased by current prices in accordance with the stated data until the first half of 2016 by about 11%, but the domestic product at constant prices has grown during 2015 by (5.7%) is expected to be a positive number in 2011. Despite of the sharp drop in oil revenues and so as a direct result of financial and economic policies adopted by the government during these two years. In addition to the expected improvement in oil prices in 2017, the domestic product is expected to witness the strongest growth is estimated at about 2%, while it is expected that non-oil activities to grow by (4.7%).

Inflation in Oman is still at low levels during 2016, equivalent to (1.85%) it is expected not to exceed 2.8% during 2017. The national economy has benefited during 2016 from the decline in commodity prices that are not associated with energy; it will also help strengthening of the dollar to curb inflation and the imports of the Sultanate.

Second: the expected fiscal year 2016 preliminary results:

1) Public revenues:
The final accounts (preliminary) for the fiscal year 2016 showed the following results:

The continuing decline in oil prices since mid-2014 lost the general revenues of the state (11.9) billion RO (5.2 billion between 2014 and 2015) and (6.7 billion between 2015 and 2016) Non-oil revenues ratio of 32% of the total public revenues during 2016.

The reasons for the lower actual revenue from the targeted revenue for the year 2016:
• decline in oil and gas sales revenues of about RO(1.1) billion.
• decrease in non-oil revenues by about (140) RO million.

The main reason for the failure to achieve the targeted revenue is decline in oil revenues. As a result of the continuing decline in oil prices and reaching low levels, with an actual average oil price during 2016 about (39) dollars per barrel, compared to about (45) dollars as it was estimated in the budget an down hit rate (63%) of the realized price for 2014.
3) The deficit:
The actual fiscal deficit for the financial year 2016 according to preliminary calculations is expected to reach about RO (5.3) billion, with an increase accounting for (60%) of the estimated deficit by the budget, which is considered the highest level of the deficit over the history of the public budget. The deficit is resulted from several reasons including the decline in the actual price achieved in oil ($ 45 estimated in the budget to $ 39 practically), actual achieved decrease from some non-oil revenues items. In addition to increased public spending from the budget estimates.

4) Finance the deficit:
Despite of the severity of the challenges faced by the budget, the government has been able to provide the necessary funding for expenditure by relying heavily on external borrowing to avoid crowding out the private sector in providing financing needs of domestic liquidity. where it was an international issue bonds worth $ 4 billion. Moreover commercial loans are grouped at $ 5 billion, loans and export guarantee agency amounting to $ 2 billion, Islamic bonds amounting to $ half a billion. Borrowing from foreign and domestic financial institutions, bonds, Treasury permissions and development bonds amounted (72%) of the funding and cover the remaining 28% from reserves.

5) Public debt:
Rising deficits during the years 2015 and 2016 to high and unprecedented levels, resulted in high public debt of the state and the rise of the domestic gross product at the end of 2016 to (29%). Therefore; the debt service rate will rise successively in the coming years, the next statement shows the evolution of the deficit and public debt during the period (2014 - 2016):

### Rising public debt
As a percentage of gross domestic product to 29%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>RO-billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>15172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>13699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>12650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Public expenditure:
Total public expenditure reached according to final accounts (preliminary) around RO (12.65) billion compared to RO (11.9) billion according to the budget estimates of an increase of percentage (6%); due to higher spending on development projects and supporting the electricity sector and the promotion of some of the budget items to meet the critical and emergency needs.

Although the actual spending was higher than the estimated, except that it is less than the actual spending for 2015 by about RO (1.05) billion a rate of (8%). Which came as a direct result of the measures taken by the government to rationalize expenditure, most public spending items declined from its levels in 2015, most notably the support and ongoing expenses of the ministries, government units and expenses of security and defense.

### The price of oil achieved
- **in 2014:** $ 105
- **in 2016:** $ 39

### Decline Percentage
- **63%**
- **6.9 RO**

The shape below clarifies oil average Prices in (2014-2016):
Third: The key characteristics of the budget for the financial year 2017:

The state budget is the annual executive financial program of the objectives of the five-year plan and the preparation of the revenue and expenditure estimates and expectations of the budget deficit in 2017 aims to achieve the following:

1. **Ensure the financial sustainability of the state.**

   Financial sustainability and reducing the risk probability of the most important goals that the budget seeks to achieve as a result; financial transactions will not generate pressure on sovereign resources. In this context, the financial levels of the budget 2017 in respect to both spending and revenue has been estimated to achieve the following:
   - reduce the state budget deficit and keep within safe levels.
   - continue to review and reduce public spending and private consumption expenditure, non-essential spending and raise the overall efficiency and ensure its sustainability.
   - Activate the non-oil revenues and working to raise its contribution to the total government revenue.
   - Stimulate private sector investment to achieve the targeted growth rates.
   - reduce the growth of public debt and reduce it in the coming years.
   - focus on external borrowing to finance development projects and finance the budget requirements.

2. **Stimulate growth and sustainable operating**

   The public expenditure is a key to economic growth and employment sources in this area, the budget for 2017 included the following:
   - achieving an economic growth rate and adjust the inflation rate to maintain individuals income levels.
   - To provide the necessary financial allocations for government units that contribute directly and indirectly to the achievement of the planned economic growth in 2017.
   - provide the required support to achieve the expected results of the recommendations of the program (Tanfeez) for the improvement of the investment climate and strengthening the role of the private sector and work to increase the rate of investment in gross domestic production.
   - focus in the development budget to invest in the most promising and productive sectors identified in the Ninth Five-Year Plan so as to promote economic diversification process, lead to increased employment rates, to achieve economic and financial stability in the medium term and strengthen social development.
   - provide funds for the establishment and activation of investment services center at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which means to concern and facilitate domestic and foreign private sector investment procedures.
   - provide funds to the execution support and the follow-up unit to enable it to do its part and practice competencies and responsibilities entrusted to it efficiently.
   - Boost the partnership between the public and private sectors to accelerate the implementation of a greater number of investment projects and initiatives of the private sector, without the disruption of financial balances at the macroeconomic level.
   - Maintenance allocations of assets, facilities and infrastructure to maintain the developmental achievements through public spending and budget work over the past decades.
   - follow up the implementation of decisions taken to support SMEs through an attribution share of the projects of government and business to it and speed up payments owed to it by the exchange and continue to offer lending Fund and the Bank of Development.

3. **The stability of citizens living standards:**

   Oman has made great achievements in health, education, basic services and infrastructure, which pushed the living standards of citizens to high levels. These achievements have been achieved through rational sectoral policy for all government units through the optimal use of their allocations from the country's budget, hence the budget aimed at maintaining these achievements through:

   **Education, health and social welfare sectors:**

   The included allocation of these sectors in the budget amount towards RO (2686) million by (23%) of the total public expenditure of which about RO (1586) million to the education sector, RO (613) million for the health sector, and the amount of RO (487) million for social welfare.
sector. It includes salaries, employee benefits expenses, operational expenses, the costs of providing health and education services and the allocation of security and welfare, as well as cash to spend on development projects of the sectors such as schools, health facilities and others.

This large share of the budget allocated to the sectors mentioned, in recognition of their importance as they relate to the social dimension and touches the lives of citizens directly.

Employment:
With regard to the circumstances of the budget that have been affected by the sharp decline in oil prices. Additionally, high volume of salaries and its share from public spending and the growing financial burden. The employment in the government sector during 2017 as a result will be limited and rely mainly on companies, institutions and the private sector to create jobs for Omani youth. Through the establishment of investment projects of an economic return, where statistics released by the National Center for Statistics and information indicates to the increase in the number of Omanis in the private sector to (222) thousand workers in 2016, an increase of 13 thousand workers, which means that the private sector has been able to absorb this number . Consequently, it is hoped that the labor market provides additional job opportunities in the range of (12) to (13) thousand jobs during 2017.

Government services:
Maintaining the stander of basic government services such as health, education, training, electricity, water, security services, telecommunications, social security aids and work to improve the quality as much as possible.

National Training Fund:
Provide the necessary financial appropriations for activating the role of the National Training Fund to pay the efforts of private sector employment and finance rehabilitation programs and training in a way that ensures the quality and speed of implementation.

Social housing programme and housing assistances:
Continue to implement the construction of social housing and housing monetary assistance program for the deserved categories from citizens.

### 3) Budget Financial estimates for 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>RO -billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>7350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>12650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline</td>
<td>(50300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total budget for 2017</td>
<td>8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual budget for 2016</td>
<td>11700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Price of oil($)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Price of oil($)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline</td>
<td>(3000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil（$）</td>
<td>8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP(%)</td>
<td>7350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP(%)</td>
<td>12650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP(%)</td>
<td>(50300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP(%)</td>
<td>8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP(%)</td>
<td>11700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP(%)</td>
<td>(3000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1) Public revenues:
The total revenues estimated at RO (8.7) billion, with an increase of 18% from the actual scheduled revenues for the year 2016 which consist of oil and gas revenues of RO (6.11) billion representing (70%) as estimated, non-oil revenues about RO (2.59) billion accounted for 30% of total revenues, which are collected from the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>RO -billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes and fee revenues</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax (companies and institutions)</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing fees to bring non-Omani workers</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs tax</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tax revenues:</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment profits in stocks and shares of capital</td>
<td>1423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received aids</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water sale revenue</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenues</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tax revenues</td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other tax revenues</td>
<td>2590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With reference to the following regards:
- Sultanate's commitment to the decided reduction of oil production, according to the decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- Starting the flow of gas from the Makarem tank field in the last quarter of 2017 - God willing -.
- Improve mechanisms, raise collection rates and expand the provision of preferential services for a fee consistent with these services.
2) Public expenditure:
The total public expenditure is estimated by about RO (11.7) billion with a decrease of RO (200) million for the estimated 2016 expenditure amounted by (2%), and has been taking into account the results of fiscal measures taken to reduce expenditure in all its provisions, in accordance with the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RO -billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Expenses</td>
<td>7990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Expenses</td>
<td>3315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Expenses</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministers and governmental units 'Current expenses:
The expenses of this term are estimated by about RO (4.4) billion with a decrease amounted by (5%) from the estimated budget of 2016. Allocated for employees' salaries and entitlements amounted by RO (3.3) billion, including periodic premium, the amount of operating expenses RO (0.6) billion, noting that the salaries and entitlements of staff item represents the percentage (75%) of the total current expenses.

Development expenses:
The financial allocations for expenditure to implement development projects amounted by about RO 1.2 billion, this amount represents the cash flow estimated during the year according to the rates of the actual implementation. It has been taking into account to maintain the level of encashment on development projects without reduction to ensure the progress of work and the completion of all implemented projects without any interruption or delay. Moreover, to ensure the repayment of financial payments for government contracts in a timely and regular basis.

Security and defense expenses:
With total estimated appropriations for this item amounted by RO (3.34) billion by reduction amount of (5%) from the allocations in the 2016 budget. The expenses of this term consist of salaries and employee benefits, other operating expenses and expenses of health and education services and construction.

Oil and gas production expenses:
This item expenses estimated about RO (1.82) increased by (2%) for the 2016 budget estimates.

Support expenses:
The estimated allocations for this item RO(395) million, the same level adopted in the 2016 budget and include allocations to support electricity, gas, housing and development loans and operational support for government corporates.

Other expenses:
The allocations for this term amounted by RO (405) million increased by RO (165) million from estimated in 2016 budget amounted by (69%); as a result of the raise of loans' interests which reached RO(265) million. This term also contains government contributions allocations in company’s capitals and external and domestic institutions amounted by RO (140) million.

Deficit:
The budget deficit is estimated by about RO (3) billion, amounted by (30%) of the public revenues and amounted by (12%) of the domestic outcome. Although the amount of the deficit to the domestic gross product is regarded within the declined levels according to the international indicators. The availability of allocations for electricity, gas, supporting housing and developmental loans in addition to operational support of governmental companies.

Deficit Finance:
A ratio (84%) of the estimated budget deficit in 2017 will be financed as RO(2.5) billion through external and domestic borrowing. While the rest of deficit estimated at RO (0.5), billion will be financed through withdrawals from reserves, including external borrowing in US dollars issuing international bonds and pooled commercial loans.

privatization program:
It was initiated in 2016 the implementation of the privatization program in accordance with the general framework prepared for the year (2016 - 2020) with the completion of the first phase of the establishment of holding companies at the level of each sector and to bring the government's stakes in domestic and foreign companies to Holding companies. The ownership of some companies as well converted to sovereign funds in preparation for their privatization. In this regard, a preparation of financial, legal and technical advisory studies completed relating to the allocation of Muscat Electricity Distribution Co, a subsidiary of the Electricity Holding Company and wholly owned companies by the government. It is expected that the conduct of mechanisms related to the requirements of the implementation of the draft allocation of Muscat for the distribution of electricity will be completed during the first half of 2017.
Notice that the implementation of the privatization program will continue over the coming years as one of the basic tools that aim to expand the participation of the private sector in owning, financing and management of economic activities. Consequently broaden the ownership base, participation and deepen the capital market in the Sultanate, taking into account the economic feasibility of allocating all companies and appropriate stock market conditions.

The national programme for economic diversity (Tanfeez):
The ninth five-year plan has focused on five promising sectors and number of possibilities and to guarantee the execution of the plane goals, especially with reference to economic diversity, the national programme for economic diversity (Tanfeez) has been approved to improve investment environment and easy access of business practise. In order to serve economic diversity and to attract domestic and external investment through reviewing and updating laws and legislations as well as electronic techniques in accomplishing governmental services to pave the way for the private sector. The first phase of Tanfeez is consisted of three basic sectors which are:( transforming manufactures, tourism, logistic services) in addition to supporting sectors (treasury and creative finance), (labor market and operatizing).

The first phase has resulted in (121) initiatives and projects to be executed starting from 2017. It is expected that the outputs of the first phase will contribute in raising the gross local product by about Ro (1.7) billion moreover to create job opportunities for Omanis estimated by about (30) thousand ones. In addition to setting up a follow-up and execution unit which regarded as one of the efficient and supporting tools to carry out initiatives and programs recommended by (Tanfeez).

Fourth: financial measures taken to overcome budget deficit and setting financial situations.

With reference to the sustainable decline in oil prices for the third year, the government has adopted a methodology of gradual confrontation against the severe declined revenues to evade any economic or political consequences. They take into consideration not to affect the introduced services for citizens and avoid the shrink in economy. That is why the budget 2017 included a number of measures concerning revenues and expenditures as follows:

A) Activating non-oil revenues:
The following mentioned measures are expected to improve and raise non-oil revenues contributions in accordance with the decisions taken or undergone by the concerned governmental sides:
- Amendment of income-tax law expected to issue during this year counting that its financial effect is not scrolled in the budget till its issuance.
- Selective taxation application on commodities such as tobacco alcohol and others in correspondence with its application in GCC.
- Amendment of issuance fees of bringing non-Omani labor
- Amendment of services fees granted by Oman royal police
- Cutting down tax exemptions for countries and institutions
- Raise the efficiency of tax collection and activation of supervision and observation
- Amendment of the applied measures for custom's tax exemption.
- Application of the modified tariff for electricity consumers senior for commercial, industrial and government use.
- Amendment of controlling the allocation of land (commercial, tourist, industrial, agricultural).
- Unified service fees for municipal services application.
- Modifying fees for some services provided by ministries and government units, reflecting the cost and level of services provided.

B) public expenditure Rationalization
Measures to control financial situations undertaken by the government since 2015 was gradual in order to decrease its influence on economic growth and
employment. The reduction of expenditures reflected positively on improving its efficiency. It is included within some terms that do not affect on the salaries and dues of the government employees. It does not affect as well the basic activity conducted by the government units as well as government services provided to society on the following way:

- Prioritize the execution of necessary ventures that serve economic and social objectives, to slow down concerning unnecessary ventures.
- Postpone of purchasing and replacing government vehicles and equipment, to control the expense over capitalized budget to its minimum limits.
- Not to expand the organizational structures in government ministries (directorates and departments).
- Ensure the economic efficiency in the provision of public services and goods should be a major criterion governing the preparation of ministries and government agencies ’annual budgets.
- to raise the state administration efficiency by expanding the use of electronic operations to terminate transactions and to facilitate and accelerate the work processes and procedures for issuing approvals and permits.
- raise the efficiency of state-owned economic institutions in order to enhance their contribution in the economy and the emphasis on the need to apply good governance.
- review of government support system aimed at rationalizing the use, guidance and anchoring the deserved categories of citizens, taking into account the gradient.
- involve the private sector (Outsourcing) in the implementation and management of some of the projects, facilities and business in order to ease the financial burden on the budget and keep the levels and rates of investment that stimulates economic growth.
- sale of government assets, especially those that cost the public treasury burden of maintenance or operation within the framework of the privatization program.
- complete the issuance of partnership law between the public and private sector (PPP), where it is hoped to contribute to the issuance of this law to facilitate the partnership between the two sectors and to activate and enable the private sector initiatives in this aspect.
- Appropriations approved for ministries, government and units to be committed and not to adopt any additional amounts however to cover any urgent needs during the year through the prioritization of spending, and to give priority to reduce the accumulated deficit in the case of any increase in oil revenues during the year.

Budget 2017 also take account of the importance of maintaining investment expenditure allocations rate in order to enable government authorities to meet the necessary financial requirements for the implementation of government projects and pay the dues of contractors and suppliers without delay. As well as the implementation of the water and sanitation projects and road network according to its plans. Government seeks to finance them by borrowing from Arab institutions and international organizations.

### Fifth : Planning and Financial Discipline:

With reference to the large expansion witnessed in public expenditure in recent years, in order to achieve fiscal discipline and to correct spending path and its contain. Moreover, to keep sustainable rates and rearranging priorities, the Ministry has the undertaken the following:

- Develop the comprehensive fiscal policies that have been established in the Ministry of Finance so that they can create a database of government finance statistics, and build a holistic model of public finances, which includes the preparation of income, expenditure and deficit / surplus and financing in the medium term.
- proceeding the stages of updating the financial integrated accounting system and transition from cash basis to accrual that develops from the way of recording government accounts and link them to national statistics to facilitate the tracking
of government spending paths. Additionally, verification of fiscal discipline to government units and inventory and determine the financial values of all property and government assets in order to show the financial position in its real image.

- Application budget program and performance in fiscal year 2017 on four ministries are: (education, health, civic and financial services), which represents an advanced technique in the field of financial planning and prioritization of public expenditure and link it to achieve the goals and activities that serve the community.

- Develop the government’s investment’s performance through the establishment of holding companies in each sector and to employ potentials and common resources optimally and reduce duplication in administrative and regulatory efforts in order to maximize economic and financial return on those investments.

- Issuance of the new edition of the contracts of construction, engineering and advisory services. Which include the updating of all the contractual terms and conditions and determine the relationship more clearly and inclusive. To avoid the obstacles facing the implementation of government development projects, the preparation of these contracts has been built on the latest model of international contracts (FIDIC).

- Establish a unit involved in the management of public debt in the Ministry of Finance, which holds the planning, organizing, managing the government’s debt operations and review tools options, in the light of developments in global financial markets, the conditions of domestic liquidity and monitor, the safe level of indebtedness and the risks associated with rise and diversify of funding sources.

- Improve liquidity management mechanisms of the public treasury, including the creation of a unified bank account to the public treasury.

- Continue to monitor the financial performance of the budget and take the necessary actions to achieve a balance in the year 2020, so as to cope up with public spending and revenues over the medium term and in line with the overall framework of the five-year plan.

- Seek to improve Oman’s credit rating, which fell from the level of (A) in 2014 to (A-) and (BBB-) in 2015 and 2016, respectively, due to the negative effect of the decline in oil prices on public finances of the government.
Professional and technical training …

development locomotive

Professional and technical training is becoming the economic development locomotive in the light of education problems in the Arab World and the problems of job seekers which amount millions of young Arab people. Therefore, many advanced countries realized early that technical education based on skills and innovative solutions in the world of Knowledge is considered one of the vital solutions to launch a new generation to work and construct. This is the case in many countries as Japan, thus technical education and developing basic skills is the start towards preparing new generations to participate in constructing and development. It is becoming clear that the problem of education in the Arab world needs a precise diagnose, as it caused a deficit countries’ economy and caused a clear failure in development. The outcomes of education in the majority of Arab countries is weak ones that do not submit to scientific elements or advanced skills resulting in young people unemployment. Because of technical skills shortage, the private sector, which is the locomotive of any economy, will not hire such youth with these abilities. These abilities are victims of traditional education, which depends mostly on memorization and inefficient methods, which do not cope with educational revolution in countries such as Singapore. That is why the technical education related to technology, languages and skills is the only way to create a generation able to deal scientifically and culturally with the age variables including all technical changes contributed in changing many Arab countries through social media. Thus, we have to confess that education system in the Arab world generally needs radical amendments to reflect on economic development. Scientifically developed human resources considered the correct entrance towards constructing human abilities. The desired development lies in education and in particular the technical one, which generated information revolution, which invest methodologies in the process of advancement, aside from Arab experience in the field of education during the last decade, which was disappointing. The political changes in many Arab countries are resulted from the failure of education, consequently the loss of the dream of millions of young people to live properly and to upgrade their homelands in all fields. Therefore, it is becoming essential in that phase to review the contents and goals of education and to pay attention to technical education to be able to lunch towards advancement. Through investing human resources, which have the major effective role in civilized movement because of the changes in the world, we have to reevaluate our educational situation to be able to direct the human energy to construct and give to achieve the desired status to our homelands among nations.
Human resources between reality and ambition
Human resources challenges in private sectors institutions

OCCI represented by Human Resources and Business Market Committee organized a seminar titled "Human resources between ambition and reality under the current variables." Aiming to find solutions to the barriers faced by human resources directors in private sectors' institutions and to support the role of this sector staff especially in high and medium employments. Under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Salim Bin Mustahil Al-Mashani advisor at the Diwan of Royal Court, and in the presence of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, stakeholders, specialists on human resources and related sectors in the public and private sectors, and civil society institutions.

Said Al Kiyumi: youth rehabilitation contributes in national economy promotion and guarantees a real human capital.

Adham Al Said: Private sector faith in graduates' abilities is limited they always rely on years of experience.

Mohammed Al Ansy: bridging the relationship between private sectors institutions and youth to provide new job opportunities.
Investing in the human element.

HE Said Bin Saleh Al Kiyumi Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Oman pointed out in his speech, saying: The experiences of civilization for a number of economic States affirmed that the human element is the real wealth for any country. Human element elevates and upgrades nations. There is no doubt that one of the achievements of a number of world leading economic nations of a massive renaissance emerged without possessing oil resources or natural resources to achieve additional income to them. He pointed out that the Omani youth constitute the majority of the community, as the proportion of young people in the age category between 15 and 29 years, 30% of the total Omani population, if invested in the preparation and rehabilitation as appropriate, it can promote the Sultanate economy. Moreover, to constitute a real human capital and labor force capable of contributing in the growth of national economy.

He added: working hard and sincere well are all we need to escalate the human resources in the Sultanate and there is no way to doubt our human abilities, as the Omani youth managed to achieve a great success in administrating sectors of water, electricity, oil as well.

HE asserted: the chamber seeks to cooperate effectively and prosperously with the Sultanate labor Union. It conducted many of joint activities and programs inside and outside the Sultanate. The chamber agenda for the coming year comes to complete the same methodology to operate a permanent cooperation between businesses, companies, institutions owners and workers to develop private sector institutions and their working staff.

Enable youth to establish their commercial business...

On behalf of Mohammed Hassan Al – Ansy, the chief of human resources development and business market committee said: The seminar aims to bridge the relations between the private sector institutions and ambitious Omani youth to provide new job opportunities in business market and to enable youth to establish their own commercial business. It aims as well to figure out solutions to the barriers faced by human resources directors in private sectors and to support the role of the people working in this vital and significant sector. He added, the seminar includes many scientific specialized worksheets introduced by a galaxy of Omani efficient and experienced staff starting to diagnose the human resources sector of the sultanate out from rich experience and a direct relation with the sector specially circles and committees of human resources in addition to general and particular decision-making positions.

Employment platform ...

His highness Adham Bin Turkey AL Said has mentioned the aspects of economy and education concentrating on the trials to find job opportunities for job seekers particularly the graduates who suffer from market refusal. Through offering work in an employment platform aims to easily find job opportunities with private sector institutions, to help the sector as well to obtain the human staff easily. He cleared the reason behind it, which is to bridge the gap between business market and job seekers especially in the field of employment and training.

He said, Because of the problematic situation of graduates and the lack of experience after graduation, which they need through training, the platform of “employ” seeks to find these opportunities cooperating with the private sector.

His highness pointed to the challenges faced by the private sector to rehabilitee the human resources include: lack of faith in graduates abilities and comprehensive dependence on experience years, consequently previous training on managing business is vital to bridge this gap through training programs and managing business which consider important to build up trust between the two sides.

Leadership and supervisory employments Omanization ...

HE Eng. Mohammed Bin Salem Al – Busaidi the Chief of Human Resources and youth committee, member of AL Shura Council introduced a presentation titled "Leadership and supervisory employments Omanisation between challenges and opportunities" through AL Shura Council study "Leadership and supervisory employments Omanisation challenges in the private sector". He pointed that the study aims to identify the effect of Omanising Leadership and supervisory employments in the private sector and to assist the government to figure out solutions to cut down the problem of job seekers especially university graduates. In addition, to enable Omani youth to lead the private sector and to introduce number of proposals that contribute in finding new Leadership and supervisory employments in the private sector.

ALBusaidi affirmed that this study has resulted in some recommendations such as the necessity to accelerate to update the work law for its importance to control and discipline business market to cope with the variables and updates of business market. To amend social insurance law as well to shrink the gap in the pension system of the private sectors workers to equal with government sector employees, according the case in
Pensions and Benefits Law after service for government Omani employees. Moreover, to find a united integrated database by Omanization specializers, in particular the database related to the number of expatriates employed in Leadership, supervisory, specialized and technical positions in private sector and the wages that they get. Additionally, setting up scientific and practical plans by people responsible Omanization to replace Omani instead of expatriates in Leadership and supervisory positions in the private sector with an annual increase not less than 40% during coming five years. In addition to the above, to follow the gradient policy in employment replacement for Omani rather than expatriates in leadership and supervisory positions, and focus on qualitative Omanization in the private sector by the concerned authorities. Moreover, the establishment of a Gulf joint committee for resettlement between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to take advantage of experiences and exchange of information and the discovery of jobs opportunities in each country, particularly with regard to titles of leadership supervisory positions according to the unified Gulf descriptive directory for professional description and classification currently operated in Ministry of Manpower. Also, to grant of facilities and additional privileges for companies that omanise leadership and supervisory positions, and diversify the nationalities of the expatriate labor force, so as to avoid the expatriate labor force in the supervisory and executive positions in the private sector in one nationality concentration, in addition to a number of general recommendations.

Technology to seek job opportunities ...  
Yousuf Bin Ali Al Harthy, CEO of Omani Technology Fund also delivered a presentation titled «technology and its role in job creation». In which he said: the concept of knowledge economy is tentatively economy that achieves the benefit of employing the knowledge and the exploitation of givens elements in the provision of products or distinctive services. They can be marketed and to achieve profits and wealth through transferring knowledge into wealth, providing jobs is not qualified for the cognitively only, but for the creators and innovators as well, but the owners of the supporting skills for their business.

He pointed, one of the knowledge economy pillar is innovation (research and development) it is an effective system of commercial ties with academic institutions and other ones, which can cope with developed knowledge to contain it and to be adapted with local needs. Education as well where government should provide the skilled creative working hands or human capital able to immerse modern technology in work. Moreover, infrastructure based on communication and information technology which facilitate publishing and preparing of knowledge and information to be adapted with local needs. In order to support economic activity and to stimulate projects to produce high-added value in addition to the rational wisdom which is provision of all lawful political aspects to increase production and growth.

Al Harthy asserted on the importance of developing education, more brave investments in creation, to open up to attract minds, and finally to encourage great companies to overtake new starting companies and a national strategy to develop traditional industries and more used mechanism.

Private sector employment ... 
Simon Jamil Karam, GM of Sarooj group said about «the ability of the private sector in employment during the current variables», where he said the private sector's ability to absorb the Omani; in spite of the current changes and the difficulty of the situation due to oil prices. However, we should be optimistic because we have many fields and existed foreign investments as Luwi plastics and Duqm ventures, pointing that "Tanfeez" program is regarded a great hope to offer many employments in the three-targeted sectors during the coming five years.
Souqs are a good step to activate economic circumstances in Omani states...

They contribute in creating a renewable economic pulse in the heart of each Omani state. They are an opportunity to create a human community and economy to stimulate commercial, cultural and marketing aspects. They encourage SMEs and promote home enterprises, which already need encouraging and marketing.

On this occasion, we gladly praise over the initiatives of some states that organize public markets by the hands of institutions or the citizens themselves once awhile. They assured their success on all levels of economy, marketing and community. They created an interactive atmosphere inside the community itself instead of going to neighbor countries for shopping...

-As a result of the raising convince of the vitality of these Souqs in community life and their positive reflection on individuals and society, as being a renewable terminal in marketing away from formal atmosphere.

In this context, we call on all officials and citizens to the essentiality to expand these Souqs as they encourage local products, that’s why they become of community demand.
Social responsibility conference
Ensuring private sector and civil society partnership
Eight agreements signed to finance different sectors in Zofar ..

OCCI at Salalah governorate, in cooperation with regional net for social responsibility supported by Salalah Methanol Company and Oman international conference of social responsibility sponsored by HE Sayyid Faisal Bin Turkey Al- Said the chief of special Olympic of Oman. And in the presence of his highness advisor Abdullah bin akail Al - Ibrahim Deputy Governor of Dhofar, in the embodiment of the faith of officials in social responsibility, which is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

The conference aimed to achieve an effective partnership between civil society organizations and the private sector and to highlight the importance of sustainable society responsibility of the United Nations in 2030 and to formulate recommendations for social work. Through sustainable partnership between the various sectors of society to develop the resources of the country as complementing each other on the basis of sustainable development in the Omani society and stimulate private sector companies to contribute to social ventures, and the application of development goals.

Abdullah Al rawas: social responsibility represents a close relation between corporates and society..

Eng. Awad Al Shanfari: social partnership between all contributing institutions in comprehensive national development..

Duaij Al- Khalifa: Oman international conference of social responsibility presents successes and experiences ..
Embody partnership spirit:
Concerning social responsibility, Abdullah bin Salem al Rawas the Chairman of the OCCI Dhofar branch said: Social responsibility represents a close relation between companies and society; where all companies are regarded an integrated part of local society and all accomplishments and successes contributed mainly by society. Consequently, social responsibility programme embodies the spirit of partnership between the two sides that integrate each other. He added that the conference would contribute to spread the spirit of awareness regarding to the significance social responsibility to ensure more donation by companies during the coming phase.
Eng. Awad bin Hasan Al Shanfari said about the conference in his word: the importance of integration, similarity and cooperation between institutions to support sustainable development is unconcealed. With reference to such importance and out of our faith in the significances of sustainable development we held this conference, which aim to create a social partnership among all institutions to work side by side and to complete each other in comprehensive national development. He added that they took on their shoulders working with all sectors and civil institutions to develop this precious country under the leadership of his majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said the greatest may God protect him.

Successes and experiences...
HE Sheikh Duajj bin Khalifa Al- Khalifa, Honorary President of the Gulf Disability Society of the Kingdom of Bahrain, gave the word of the Regional Net of social responsibility and international ambassadors of social responsibility programmes in which he said : Oman International Conference on Social Responsibility comes to provide experiences and successes on best practices in the areas of social responsibility for 2016 through experts and pioneers in the field of community work. The conference came after more than a year and a half of the adoption of the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development « United Nations various sustainable development goals to be adopted in2030», which is the 17 goals that Regional Net for Social responsibility vowed to contribute to the promotion, and urge institutions in that concern.

Agreements and partnerships...
Agreements and partnerships sponsored by Salalah Methanol Company were signed during the conference, represented in eight agreements. The first agreement included funding for the scholarship program for the children of the social security and limited income and orphans in Dhofar. And the second to finance the purchase of essential household needs of the families of social security and limited income in Dhofar government, in cooperation with the Omani Commission of Charity at Dhofar Governorate branch. The third agreement for the support and financing of the second phase of the expansion project and the development of Hioor cave at Jebel Samhan in Mirbat. The fourth agreement to support and finance the construction of autism center in Dhofar governorate in cooperation with the Ministry of social development. The fifth agreement to finance the purchase of some equipment and devices necessary for the unit of behavioral Medicine, Sultan Qaboos Hospital in collaboration with the Directorate General of health Services in Dhofar Governorate. The sixth agreement for the finance and purchase of some appliances for the heart center of Sultan Qaboos Hospital in Dhofar governorate in cooperation with the Directorate General of health Service in Dhofar. The seventh convention to finance purchasing of examination Psychotropic Substances Hospital Sultan Qaboos device in cooperation with the Directorate General of Health Services in Dhofar Governorate, the eighth agreement for financing the purchase of educational equipment of Information Technology College of Technology in Salalah.

Sessions...
The first day of the conference included three scientific sessions presented by a number of leading experts in the areas of social responsibility of specialists from the Sultanate of Oman and the Arab countries and others. In order to share their experiences and practices of social responsibility through scientific work paper and presenting a film about the Sultanate of Oman titled «Social responsibility in the Arab region ... models and success stories». Additionally, the second session titled «Social responsibility practices in the Sultanate of Oman» whereas the third session titled «Arab city socially responsible ... tools to boost responsible and sustainable practices»
New Images

Free Economic Zone "Al-Duqm"
A partnership towards innovation and cooperation in Info – tech
Jordan – Oman businessmen forum stresses the importance of cooperation in various sectors

Reda Al Saleh: forums represent a meeting point between ventures and institutions owners and result in fruitful commercial partnerships and economic relations.

Zuhir Al Nasoor: the world financial crisis did not stop Omani and Jordanian businessmen from proceeding their business, they are aware that they are a solid unity and economic nation fabric.

Hamdi Al Taba: the necessity to achieve more communication among companies, institutions, entrepreneurs and economic events.

Reda Al Saleh: forums represent a meeting point between ventures and institutions owners and result in fruitful commercial partnerships and economic relations.
The OCCI organized at the headquarters in Muscat yesterday. The Jordanian – Omani businessmen forum titled "A partnership towards innovation and cooperation in information technology" which comes as an outcome to the recommendations of the joint ministerial committee between the Sultanate and Hashmi Jordanian kingdom. It was held in correspondence with the fifth Indo – Omani partnership conference to meet the Omani businessmen in order to activate Memorandum of Understanding signed last year between Jordanian Businessmen Association and OCCI to boost economic ties between the two countries in business sector. In the presence of association members representing sectors of commerce, industry, health care, education information technology and engineer consultants, number of Omani and Jordanian businessmen as well.

Private sector the pillar of economy..

Eng. Reda Bin Jumaa Al Saleh, Deputy-chief of OCCI for administrative and financial affairs welcoming the Jordanian businessmen says: no doubt that private sector is a major pillar to any economy. Out of that concept, we have to work on to upgrade its elements of institutions and companies through methods that guarantee its growth. Here emerges the importance of operating such forums and meeting which represent a meeting point for the owners of companies and institutions from the two countries resulting in a vital commercial partnership and more deep and effective economic ties.

He pointed that the number of Jordanian companies registered in the Sultanate amounted approximately 226 company. The Jordanian contribution in the companies total invested capital amounted RO 26 million distributed in the activities of construction, transportation, services, health, education, tourism, agriculture, mine, industry and financial sector. He confirmed saying: According to last year statistics, the Jordanian imports to the Sultanate amounted RO 22 million, whereas Omani exports to Jordan amounted RO 17 million approximately. There is no doubt that these numbers are relatively reasonable if compared to the capacity of the two countries private sector. Therefore, we are holding great hopes on such meetings to increase the volume of commercial exchange and to enable experience exchange among business society. For instance, we are keen to familiarize with advanced Jordanian experience in the aspects of highly – medical services.

Memorandum of understanding

On behalf of Zuhair Abdullah Al Nasour, Ambassador of Hashmi Jordanian Kingdom at Sultanate of Oman says: many of business and economy persons in case of economic crises resort to recession, slow down and waiting future. However, the world financial crisis did not hinder businessmen in Oman and Jordan to proceed their business affairs because they deeply believe that they are a solid firm unity and economic nation fabric. They do not consider business as a source of profit and loss but rather as a soldier who says home comes first. He pointed that the ties between
consulting, Jordanian companies have shown efficiency in important sectors, and in the field of contracting which calls for thinking in investing in these two working in various specializations in the Sultanate, qualified human staff. There are Jordanian doctors also in the hands of highly qualified Jordanian doctors and are receiving treatment at the latest hospitals, and at becoming a popular destination for Arab brothers who are proceeding their college study at the universities of Sultanate as well benefit from the qualified Jordanian teachers working at the Sultanate. The high education human staff, there are many Jordanian professors and Jordanian – Omani businessmen council at the chamber of commerce and industry for both countries.

**Jordanian – Omani businessmen’s cooperation**

Hamdi Al Taba, Jordanian Businessmen Association Chief in his speech said: the economic developments and comprehensive reform and provision of a competing investment environment as well as safety, security and stability that Jordan witness during the last few years will be a stimulation to increase the economic cooperation between them. It will increase rates of in-between trade, encourage establishing investment projects and benefit from distinctive Jordanian experience at the level of service sector. The distinguished Jordanian efficiency in several fields has contributed in boosting mutual ties in the field of High education. There are a great number of Omani students proceeding their college study at the universities of Jordan and they receive attention and concern. The Sultanate as well benefit from the qualified Jordanian human staff, there are many Jordanian professors and teachers working at the Sultanate. The high education sector in Jordan has proved its efficiency at the region level. We have 26 government and special universities, which graduate thousands of students in different academic fields. As well as the health care sector is becoming a popular destination for Arab brothers who are receiving treatment at the latest hospitals, and at the hands of highly qualified Jordanian doctors and qualified human staff. There are Jordanian doctors also working in various specializations in the Sultanate, which calls for thinking in investing in these two important sectors, and in the field of contracting and consulting, Jordanian companies has shown efficiency and capacity. It allowed many opportunities to exist in many Arab and foreign countries. Thus, we are looking forward for more opportunities in the Sultanate through donating the working Jordanian companies in the field of training, administrative and engineered consultants and contracting as well as high education and info-tech more share of ventures. The financial banking sector in Jordan has a remarkable role in establishing the Sultanate financial market.

Al Taba said: Aqaba Special Economic Zone constitutes the starting point for creating a developed regional center in a strategic location in the Middle East to be a cycle of economic integrated and varied development, which includes tourism, leisure services, professional services and multimodal transport and value-added industries. Thus availability of investment opportunities on a global level in this competing site. He pointed that the attracting investment circumstances in Jordan and its distinctive economic relations through free trade agreements linking it with major international markets such as the United States, which reached Jordan’s exports to about $1.5 billion last year, as well as Europe, that is bound to Jordan partnership agreement that allows export under duty-free. The Protocol of origin rules of the convention has been amended recently to facilitate the conditions of exporting goods. Al Taba called on Jordanian businessmen to benefit from the distinguished geographical site of Jordan to enter the markets of North Africa; the Sultanate as well is the crossing gate of Jordanian exports to Indian Ocean countries. He affirmed the necessity to create more communication between the companies, institutions and business owners as well as economic events. He asserted the importance of exchanging information to identify the available cooperation potentials in different fields to promote the economic relations to the desired level. In particular, the field of commercial exchange where Jordan exports to the Sultanate reached JD 50 million last year constitute medicine, fruits and vegetables. Jordan’s imports from the Sultanate reached JD 25 million of fish and some petrochemicals and plastics, where this exchange reflects the available potential. We must intensify contacts between the businessmen to identify the goods produced in both countries and broaden the base of mutual goods. He pointed out that the Jordanian investment projects in the Sultanate amounted to about $58 million, including Jordan International School, which opened in Muscat in 2014, while Oman’s investments in Jordan are relatively small.
The inauguration of Oman exhibitions and conference Centre provided with the full services, facilitated the organization of various events in one time. It enabled the Omani traders and foreign companies to host conferences that are more specialized. In order to bring more entrepreneurs and Omani traders in the market. The Centre hosted the Iranian product exhibition in Muscat within the period from 23rd to 27th of January of this year. The exhibition was conducted by Iran embassy in Muscat in cooperation with Oman exhibitions Business Company (EXPO), sponsored by HE Dr. Ali Bin Masood Alsyndi, the minister of industry and commerce, and HE Eng. Muhammed Reda NE'mat Zadah , minister of industry, commerce and mines in Iran.

The participated Iranian traders showed their satisfaction with their last distinctive participation through that commercial activity. They succeeded in boosting their relations with the Omani traders to attract more agents for their products in the Sultanate. They asserted that the Omani market can contain more Iranian products in accordance with the formal relationship between the two countries in many sectors in the coming few years. They consider the Weakness in the direct banking and insurance transactions due to UN decisions against its nuclear program is the only obstacle to raise the commercial exchange. However, they believe that the coming period will witness more transaction and commercial cooperation between the two countries because of the lifting of the economic boycott on Iran. Moreover allowing international banks to deal directly with the Iranian ones. These traders think that trend of Bank Muscat to open a bank service office in Tehran, in addition to supporting the Central Bank of Oman as well as the Iranian one, will accelerate the external commercial process in the coming future in the existence of direct aviation between them. In addition to the enhancement of maritime traffic between the ports of the Sultanate and Iran in the last period. The Iranian Exhibition was lunched recently in Muscat in participation with a number of officials, ambassadors and businesspersons from the two countries. He Dr. Ali Bin Masood Al-Sandi, the minister of industry and trade, asserted that the commercial relations between the two countries witness a constant growth. However, it demands the collaboration among all parties to boost it appropriately. He added that the statistics for 2015 show that the in–between trade reaches $560 million and it raised at the end of October 2016 to exceed $ a billion.

The Iranian side as well adopted the same trend where HE Eng. Muhammed Reda Na’imt Zadah , the minister of industry and mine in Iran, pointed that the exhibition aim at developing the mutual economic, trade and mine industries. It also develops the relation with the private sector through commercial and industrial chambers. From this point, HE Yahiya Bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of Economic Zone Authority (Aduqm), held a meeting with the Iranian minister Mohammad Reda Nemat Zadah where he addressed several issues of concern to some industrial projects that Iran aims to initiate. They discussed some of the difficulties in the field of visas, In addition to the movement of traders between the two countries. Meanwhile, both sides hope to proceed with the establishment of the Iranian car industry in Duqm. And to provide the ground and the necessary infrastructure for the establishment of the factory, and promote attitudes of both the Iran Khodro auto and Oman Investment fund.

The ventures between the two countries is ongoing, continuous and underway to implement them. There is as well, a great concern to implement Iran – Oman pipe project assumed to be constructed between the two countries. Consequently, the two countries are approaching a new phase of economic cooperation under the light of economic and political movement. As the Common Oman - Iranian Economic Committee advancing these relations between the two governments officials on the one hand and strengthen aspects of cooperation with institutions and companies, Omani and Iranian officials on the other hand.
The Sultanate produce about 42,000 tons of poultry meat, which form 50% of available consumption. The ministry of agriculture and fisheries made a study about the role of poultry in food security system in the sultanate. It showed that it has a characteristic role, since it provides two major types of food, which are white meat and eggs. These two kinds are essential elements in food pyramid in the Sultanate. Self-sufficiency data refers that the Sultanate produces about 42,000 tons of poultry meat, which constitutes 50% of consumption. Meanwhile the Sultanate depends on the imports sector to meet the rest of the population needs. The imports of poultry amounted to about 48,000 ton in 2012. Concerning egg products, the data refers that Sultanate produce 17,000 ton of table egg and it constitutes 50% of the available for consumption. It relies on the imports sector to meet the shortage needs in production, as the table eggs imports amounted about 7,000 ton in 2012,
Total number of poultry farms in the Sultanate is estimated about 2502 farms including 2495 poultry broiler with a production capacity of about 30.7 million birds. In addition, laying hens farms amounts three farms, with production capacity 1.5 million chickens laying. In the Sultanate there are four farms for mothers of broiler with a capacity of 220,000 birds. The data of the ministry of agriculture and fisheries refers that the production amount of poultry broiler eggs is estimated about 41,8000 tons annually. Whereas the production of table egg is amounted 16,8000 ton (240 million egg).

Poultry farming amount
The results of the study showed that only 20% of poultry broiler breeders produce less than 10,000 one annually, whereas 26% produce between (10:18) thousand annually and 30% produce in between (18:36) thousand ones annually and 24% produce more than 36,000 ones annually. These results show that nearly half the small and medium-scaled projects produce are less than 18,000 of poultry broiler, whereas the other half produce more.

In the field of poultry projects, results of the study showed that 20% of breeder hens produce less than 100 thousand eggs per year, while 27% are producing between (100-500) thousand eggs yearly, and 19% produce between (500:1000) thousand eggs yearly, while 34% are producing more than a million eggs yearly. It is clear from the results that almost half of small and medium-sized farms produce less than 500 thousand eggs yearly, while the other half produced more than that.

The barriers faced by the poultry sector in the Sultanate
The results of the study pointed that the scarce and expensive feeders is one of the most significant production problems faced by SMEs in the sector of poultry. The second significant barrier is the location and expanse. The shortage of government services comes thirdly. In the fourth stage comes marketing difficulties and finally the season finance for the production equipment while the rest of the obstacles are less important. These results lead to solving the main obstacles that restrict small and medium projects to raise the efficiency of these projects to be able to proceed in the future. Thus, we should put into consideration these barriers when conducting the agricultural politics in the ministry.

Woman role in small and medium projects in the sector of poultry
The participation of the Omani woman in running SMEs in poultry sector express the role of woman in family economy particularly and the Omani economy generally. The study results refer that women run 13.7% of SMEs in poultry sector only. Women work in four SMEs according to the analysis results. The average of a single project of women is one female worker to four female worker, as the average of the project-hiring women about 1.43 female worker. T-test arithmetical means refer to a statistically significant level of under 1%, and the estimated number of women in these projects are estimated at (476) worker from families of small and medium enterprises. The importance of poultry projects as a family income According to the results of the study, 27% of the SMEs are considered as a main source of income, whereas 73% of these projects are a source of income to the countryside families. Hence, we emphasize on the importance of SMEs in the income of Omani families and the improvement of its life style.

The nature of poultry market
Results of the study showed that SMEs in the poultry sector suffered from the volatility of market prices and 60% of the sample individuals agreed on the volatility of market prices whereas 22% assured that the prices are suitable. The study results as well showed that 29% of projects selling living chickens, whereas only 21% of them selling it slaughtered and 50% follow the both ways in selling.
Six Senses Zighy Bay resort was chosen among the golden list 2017: best twenty hotels in the world issued by Conde Nast travellers magazine.

After competing with the best hotels worldly, the pioneer resort located across the fascinating coastal mountains of Oman among the charming mountain nature could register its presence in the famous list thanks to "its tremendous luxury features".

Arron Magrath, the Gm commenting in the winning: To wine this title is an awesome event to all workers here where our hotel combines between the charming nature and high-level services introduced by a passionate and dedicated staff. It enabled the hotel to reserve a place in the famous list for best hotels around the world. We will exert utmost effort to sustain our position during the coming years.

The published list included as well the best names in hosting in Jan / Feb issue in addition to the magazines web site: CN Travellers .com

It is remarkable that series of Six Senses run several resorts located in the heart of charming natural beauty. They are well-known for their varied distinguished designs. 'Six Senses' nine series are familiar as well with their careful management and their commitment to society, sustainability and wellness and beauty of design. 'Six Senses' hotels, that share the same vision and values of its resorts winning many awards, are ready to occupy a new position firstly in urban areas in 2019.
With reference to Bank Sohar adoption of traffic safety issue in accordance with its initiatives of social responsibility, 2017 under the umbrella of its campaign to raise concern towards traffic safety "focus and drive". Bank Sohar seeks to spread advices relating to traffic safety focusing on one of the main aspects monthly that goes with traffic safety 'awareness campaign for this year titled "I vow for the sake of our children". On February, the bank concentrates on spreading awareness about the best practices for drivers at the schools close areas.

Monira Abdulnabi Makki, GM of Human Resources and attribution at Bank Sohar: Parents are always anxious to ensure the safety of their children, whether they are on the road or near. Consequently; we focused in our campaign this year for traffic safety "focus and drive", on spreading awareness on how to maintain the safety of our children, whether they are passengers or pedestrians. Moreover, during the year, we will publish monthly tips on various topics related to traffic safety, and in February, we focus on the importance of traffic safety near schools.

She added that the areas near to schools witness a constant motion by children and parents that causes congestions. Therefore, it is necessary to motorists slow down and focus in the case of any child, especially in the morning and afternoon on entering the students or their exit from the school. Moreover, follow these easy guidelines that will ensure the safety of the roads near schools for your children and for all children.

Bank Sohar is committed to boosting traffic safety on the roads as part of its social responsibility activities since its launching, noting that Bank Sohar has continuously in recent years organized a number of events which has achieved great success and contributed to the delivery of the concept of traffic safety for a large number of different segments of society. The bank has cooperated regularly with Oman Royal Police and a number of government agencies concerned with traffic safety, such as the Oman Road Safety association, to organize a number of events and awareness campaigns in different parts of the Sultanate. The Bank participated in the 2016 Traffic Safety Fair held at Oman International Exhibition Centre. In addition to its participation in Gulf Traffic week events held in governorate of Braimi and North of Batinah during the last year. The bank additionally obtained the award of "The best awareness campaign of traffic safety" of the segment of banks in Nov 2016 on the level of the Arab countries included by Qatar forum for transporting safety. To appreciate its efforts in traffic safety campaign "focus and drive". Also rewarded by Oman Central Bank to its contributions to spread traffic safety awareness.
Available opportunities and projects for SMEs Seminar in the field of munitions industry at the OCCI.

Committee of human resources and business market at the OCCI organized a seminar titled "business opportunities through available projects to youth in order to develop the business market" introduced by Oman munition production company (OMPC) at the head office of the chamber in Muscat.

Concerning the seminar, Mohamed bin Hamed al Ansy, the chief of business market and human resources committee at OCCI said: the committee believes in the necessity of developing SME sector and raising its efficiency. Through providing qualifying and training opportunities to introduce themselves to the supporting and initiative sponsoring big institutions. Which in turn, helps the SME young owners to identify the importance to varietize the activities and fields in which their institution work.

He added that the committee was keen to host many experienced companies in sponsoring and supporting SMEs. Thus, it hosted recently Orbak Company to familiarize the youth of projects and opportunities provided by Orbak and serve SME sector in particular Luwi plastics project, which is regarded as one of the biggest ventures in the Sultanate. It hosted as well Oman Airports Management Company to identify projects and opportunities in Muscat new airport, adding in these days we hosted Oman Munition Production Company (OMPC) to familiarize youth with a new different sector and educate them about how to benefit from these activities and opportunities.
Regarding Oman Munition Production company, Ibrahim Bin Ali AL - Blushi, the manager of OMPC says: the sultanate is able to achieve significant achievements in different aspects of life in the fields of political, social and economic development thanks to the wise and pioneer leadership of his Majesty Sultan Qaboos the greatest - God bless and protect him.

The government as well sleeked and encouraged the variety of national income and upgrading different industries for its tremendous advantages for the national economy.

He added that to meet the requirements of the Sultan’s Armed Forces of the kit and gear-Semitism, comes the commands of Maulana His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said the greatest - may God protect him - to establish OMPC directly invested by the military and the security of pension funds in the Sultanate as a closed joint stock company in 2011. The establishment of OMPC is regarded as a strategic national decision of particular importance and an effective add to the industry sector especially on the level of the Sultanate and the region generally. OMPC is one of the rare ventures in the region, is expected to fulfill the security and military requirements of light weapons in addition to the contribution in building up small and medium supporting enterprises.

Oman company for the production of ammunition located in the area Laa of Samail with total area of two million five hundred thousand square meters. Where the foundation stone for the factory production of ammunition put on 26 March 2016 to start the construction works of the project facilities and various technical buildings. The project was completed in a period of 14 months only. The first phase of the site was for preparatory work, the second phase of the construction of buildings and production facilities, while the third phase of supply and installation of equipment.

Dr. Ibrahim pointed that the Board of Directors recognize that providing the citizens seekers with job opportunities, is a national and necessary responsibility which is a primary means to meet their needs and to confirm themselves and take advantage of their skills and abilities by enabling them to participate in development and utilization of its gains. The Omanisation of jobs and professions formed the basic strategic policies of Omani Company for the production of munitions. The company has conducted a plan to choose Omani human staff according to requirements of the project in correspondence with the demanded qualifications and to conduct written tests and finally the personal interview. They are keen to prepare and qualify national human resources and to conduct an Omanisation plan for all job opportunities of the first phase amounted 100%. Moreover to focus on providing the appropriate training and the technical and administrative aspects in the field of munition industry production. Out of that, the company adopted an integrated training program for the technical and profession crew cooperating with Labor Force ministry. In that context, they signed several agreements to train, send missions and employ 30 technician divided into two groups in to separated periods in 2015 and 2016 to the Republic of France for seven months to carry out training programs in the field of munition industry production, quality control and practical training on manufacturing equipment. The training included chief programs in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering and quality control department.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the Scholarship holders is coexistence with different nationalities, learn ammunition-manufacturing techniques and influenced by the work environment in the Republic of France in addition to the acquisition of qualified skills to the start of the industry in the Sultanate.
OCCI takes part in the meetings of the 123rd sessions of the Union of Arab Chambers Council held in Al Doha, Qatar. Ayman bin Abdullah Al-Hasni, Deputy Chairman of OCCI presided over the chamber delegation. In addition to, the membership of Hamid bin Mohammed Zaman, Chairman of the Chamber’s branch in Musandam Governorate, Eng. Hamoud bin Salem Al Saadi, Chairman of the Chamber’s branch governorate of South Batinah, and Azim bin Abbas Al Bahrani, director in the chamber.

The program of meetings included a meeting of the Finance Committee of UAC, the executive committee meeting of the Federation of Arab Chambers (ACCF), the meeting of the Council of the Union of Arab Chambers. These meetings aim to coordinate the efforts of Member States to achieve the renaissance of investment and increase trade exchange between Arab countries, which in turn helps to create jobs and economic opportunities and joint ventures with the Member countries.
The Committee of Investment Promotion of the OCCI has lately received a meeting at the main base in Ruwi chaired by Ahmed Bin Saleh Baaboud, the chief of the committee, and in the presence of its members.

The meeting admitted conducting an awareness seminar during the mid of February 2017 participated by government institutions related to promoting investment in the Sultanate. It covered the obstacles and challenges that compact the investment in the Sultanate. In order to find out solutions and suggestions to tackle them.

The meeting discussed as well sending a delegation consisted of the committee members to Tunisia to take advantage in its experience in that field. They proposed to promote for Omani products in the boarders through promoting signs in collaboration with the related institutions to introduce the Omani products to the tourist and visitors once they reach its boarders.
Industry committee of the OCCI review the agenda for 2017

Ayman bin Abdullah al-Hasni, Deputy Chairman of the chamber of Branches Affairs and Committee Chairman presided over a meeting with the chamber industry committee at the OCCI to come over the work plan for 2017. The committee agenda for next year includes setting up a forum for displaying the last packaging techniques, as it is an important and integrated part for all industries accompanied with an exhibition for the latest world packaging techniques. The committee discussed as well the challenges, which encounter the sector of industry particularly after the status quo. Moreover, to find new alternatives to promote the Omani product such as seeking new markets, acquiring new techniques in order to serve the Omani products and to cut down Disbursements. The committee asserted that Omani industries should adapt with the requirements of the current period. In addition, to find alternatives to enable the Omani product to compete the external ones. It declared its intention to set up a conference concerning Omani products packaging among its schedule to 2017. It formed a team to provide appropriate ideas and to put the right vision to set up the forum aiming at improving the product.

Among the visions and proposals, the committee is studying to send a commercial delegation to Federal Republic of Germany to identify the latest technologies in industry. In addition to allocating a website on the internet to receive the difficulties that confront the sector of industry to study any suggestions and methods to promote the sector.