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September 2019

Oman Society for Petroleum Services

الجمعية العمانية للخدمات النفطية

www.opaloman.org

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EDITORIAL TEAM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADAPT THE TEXTS TO SPECIFY THE COORDINATE FORMAT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

OPAL MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Let's take a closer look what was happening in our organization last month.

Opal supported Oman Work-place Safety and Loss Prevention Conference, the Event organized by The OITE Group & Samara Training Services who are both members of OPAL.



Opal participated in the first ever workshop conducted involving OPAL/MOG/Operators at Park Inn on 26th September, supported by PetroGas E&P. The objective of this workshop was to set Oil and Gas Guideline for Process Safety Management. This forum will work continually for sharing best practices and "learn from incidents" (LFI).

Last month Opal signed an MoU with Daleel on Funding TFE Opportunities. It is a funding agreements to utilize part of Daleel 1.2% training levy by OPAL by conducting several TFE & TFD that helps employing Omanies in different sectors and companies.

RAS Inspection Companies have been invited to apply for OPAL approval. Meeting with Operators held to plan the transition from Operator approvals to OPAL approvals.

We encourage our members to submit ideas for topics which you would like to be covered in Opal Magazine. Please send your thoughts to opal@opaloman.org. Next issue will be published in October 2019.



We would like to use this opportunity to welcome to our team Mr. Yaqoob Al Mohammed who will be in charge as a Media Content Coordinator. We wish him all the best and great success on this role.



Kick of the OPAL SPORTS event is just around the corner and it will start on November 9th 2019 with Opal Mountain Bike Race.

The OPAL SPORTS event will continue to promote partnership between OPAL and the society in general.

OPAL Oil and Gas Conference brings you a perfect opportunity to secure prime location to showcase your products and services to decision makers from the top Oil and Gas industries in Oman. OPAL Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition 2019 is Oman's prime event for the oil and gas industry. Bringing together key stakeholders for two days of rich-content, through leadership and networking along with industry expert speakers who will share winning strategies and solutions to face the future of Oman's energy industry.





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MEMBER NEWS

MADAYN AND DALEEL PETROLEUM
SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

A cooperation agreement was signed on Sunday between the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) and Daleel Petroleum — one of the leading oil-producing companies. The agreement was inked by Hilal bin Hamad al Hasani, Chief Executive Officer of Madayn, and Zhang Jianli, managing director and Abdullah Al Shanfari, deputy managing director at Daleel Petroleum.

The agreement comes along the lines of strengthening relations between the public and private sectors. Based on this agreement, Madayn will provide company listings and available job opportunities in various fields in Oman and exchange best practices and facilities of the National Business Centre to support Omani entrepreneurs in line with the objectives of Daleel Petroleum. Moreover, the agreement incorporates Daleel's collaboration with Madayn Industrial Academy in the area of training as a way to boost Omanisation and develop the skills of the human cadres, to play a key role in the ICV development program.

Through this cooperation, Madayn seeks to contribute to its developmental role and achieve its overall objective of creating comprehensive and sustainable economic and social development. In this regard, Madayn Industrial Academy was recently introduced in cooperation with key partners. The objective of the academy is to offer vocational and technical training programs for the national cadres to enhance their productivity and equip them with the necessary skills to meet the market's requirements. It is worth mentioning that Madayn has adopted training and rehabilitation programs since 2011 for the national cadres working in factories and companies based in the various industrial cities.

Besides, the cooperation between Madayn and Daleel shall enhance the role played by Madayn's initiative – the National Business Centre (NBC). NBC offers an ideal platform for promising Omani entrepreneurs to develop their business ideas and advance them into growing ventures.

MAKTOOM CO PARTICIPATED IN THE
WORLD HEAVY OIL CONGRESS &
EXHIBITION HOSTED BY PDO

Maktoom Co. successfully participated in the World Heavy Oil Congress & Exhibition 2019 held in Oman Conventional and Exhibition Centre from 2nd to 4th Sep 2019. Company displayed their artificial lift and related products on booth number 1H42. The products included Advanced Surface Pumping Units, Rod Solutions, Tubing Solutions, Thermal and Conventional Down-hole Gauges, Non-API Sucker Rod Pups, Special Self Aligned Stuffing Box, Magnetic Drive PCP, Shaker Screen etc. More than 1500 visitors attended the booth and many companies showed their interest for advanced products displayed by Maktoom Co.



OPAL'S GROWING FAMILY

During the month of September we have embraced New Members:

- F&M Middle East Engineering Consultancy LLC
- Muscat Ophiolitic
- Oman International Trade & Exhibitions LLC
- Total E&P Oman Development BV (Oman Branch)

SHELL DEVELOPMENT OMAN APPOINTS
NEW CHAIRMAN

Shell Development Oman (SDO) has announced the appointment of Walid Hadi as the new Oman Shell Country Chairman.

Building on the strong foundation of our leading joint ventures Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Oman LNG, and Shell Oman Marketing Company; and our deep and strategic partnership with the Omani government, Hadi aspires to grow this partnership with exploration, integrated gas and renewables opportunities.

On his appointment, Hadi expressed, "We hold deep respect and admiration for His Majesty and the Omani government's achievements in developing this great

nation and the clear vision for the country's future. Having been in the Sultanate since the 1930s, Shell is honored to continue to be a part of this journey.

"With the current energy outlook, we strive to become an integral leader in the country's energy transition, to support the diversification of its energy portfolio and to maintain a strong contribution to In-Country Value with an emphasis on Omanisation. This ambition is the inspiration for changing our name to 'Oman Shell', which reflects how we always strived to put Oman first. That sentiment certainly rings true into the future."

He added, "As Oman Shell's Country Chairman, I look forward to working with my team and all of our partners to bring about further benefits to the Sultanate through the energy sector."

Hadi is a Dutch citizen of Lebanese origin and is a fluent Arabic-speaker. During his career in Shell, he held senior positions in planning, mergers and acquisitions, business development and government relations. These roles spanned Shell's interests across Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East.

In 2015, Hadi was the General Manager Commercial for Shell Kazakhstan and served as Shell's shareholder representative for the Caspian Pipeline Company and was a member of its Board of Directors. In 2017, Hadi took on the role of the Vice President of Finance for the Upstream Joint Venture business in The Hague which included accountability for Oman while also serving on PDO's Board of Directors.

Hadi graduated from the American University of Beirut and is a CFA charter holder. He is joined by his wife Rima, and two children in their new home in Muscat.



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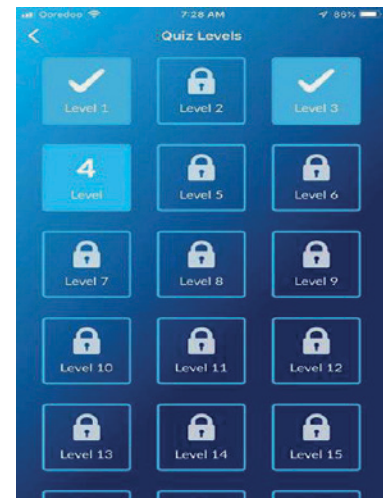
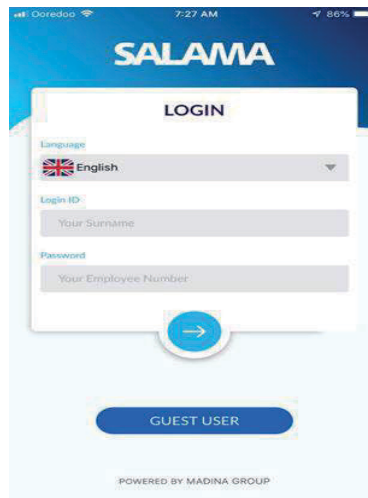
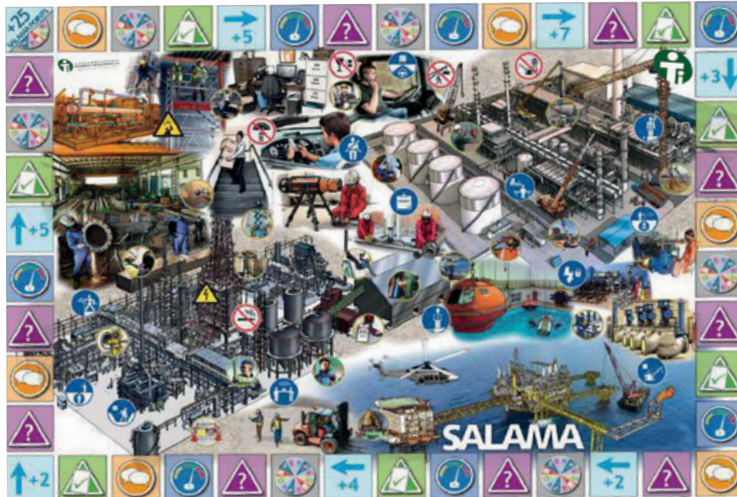
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MEMBER NEWS

DHOFAR INSURANCE COMPANY: THE STORY OF A REBOUND



After suffering a major setback, Dhofar Insurance Company rolled out a well-crafted strategy and made a significant turnaround in its operations in a short period of two years. OER takes a look at this unique story of revival.

Successful businesses are bound to face headwinds at some point in time. Turning around a company that has a strong presence in the marketplace requires a careful but strong action by its leadership team. It

requires leadership with a clear-eyed, objective understanding of what went wrong and an ambitious program to redefine the strategic focus to change the growth trajectory of the company and turn it around in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Illustrating this powerful lesson is the recent experience of Dhofar Insurance Company SAOG, a major player in Oman's insurance industry which has gone through a significant turnaround in its operations.

Incorporated in 1989, the company is a pioneer in Oman's insurance sector. The company has been a prominent player in the industry and has maintained its leadership position in the market over the years with a network of 42 branches including seven regional offices.

In the recent past, the company had identified certain flaws that led to a temporary impediment to its leadership position in the marketplace. The shareholders were quick to respond by electing seasoned professionals and mostly independent board members with expertise in wide-ranging areas such as law, banking, insurance, and HR to provide the company with strategic leadership to fix the flaws identified.

The new board under the astute leadership of the chairman- Majid Al Toky, the board conducted a comprehensive review of the company's performance, identified the problems encountered, devised a turnaround strategy and started implementing the strategic plan. This has resulted in a turnaround within a short span of two years with the company turning profitable in 2018.

Currently, Dhofar Insurance is the second-largest player in Oman's insurance sector. However, Majid added that the board is seeking to transform Dhofar Insurance to a modern international player following the best global practices.



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TOCO MUKHAIZNA TEAM ACCOMPLISHES MULTIPLE HSE MILESTONES

TOCO has been serving as one of the major oilfield services contractors in Mukhaizna since 2005. Since then, the team has been consistently delivering outstanding HSE results apart from demonstrating leadership in various operational areas. They recently achieved multiple HSE milestones including completing 6 years without LTI and 4 years without any recordable incident. The team is also very close to achieving 12 million manhours without LTI.



الجمعية العمانية للخدمات النفطية
Oman Society for Petroleum Services

VAT AWARENESS WORKSHOP

- Overview of VAT in Oman and other GCC countries
- Scope of VAT levy and key VAT concepts
- How VAT is charged / recovered across the supply chain
- Industry issues
- Transitional issues
- Potential areas of impact
- Roadmap for being VAT ready

Presenters : Head of Tax &
Director of Indirect Tax,
KPMG Lower Gulf

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MEMBER NEWS

OMAN WORKPLACE SAFETY AND LOSS PREVENTION CONFERENCE



The 2nd Edition of Oman Workplace Safety and Loss Prevention Conference for the Government, Industry & Corporate Sectors was held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Omar bin Said Al Marhoon – Minister of Civil Services, in the presence of H.E Sayyid Salem Bin Muslim Bin Ali Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of Ministry of Civil Service for Administrative Development Affairs, H.E Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Bin Nasser Al Nadabi, Undersecretary of Ministry of Civil Service for Civil Service Affairs, H.E. Dr. Hamad bin Hamad Al Ghafri and CEO's of Oman's leading companies, on 16 – 17 September 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The event was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Civil Services along with the participation of 45 Ministries, Government Authorities and state-owned companies participated at the event including Diwan of Royal Court, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Oil & Gas, Ministry of Transport & Communications, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Water Resources.

The event was supported by Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL), Institution of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH), Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), Oman Road Safety Association (ORSA), Oman HSE Professionals, Drops Oman Chapter, American Society for Safety Professionals (ASSP), Oman Society of Engineers (OSE) and International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) among others. The main sponsor was Oman Oil Company & Orpic, Gold sponsors – Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Oman Oil Marketing, Bronze sponsors - Oman LNG Development Foundation, Renaissance and STS, Research Partner - Arabian Research Bureau (ARB). The event was organized by The OITE Group & Samara Training Services who are both members of OPAL.

Dr. Amer Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL), as a keynote speaker mentioned that safety must indeed be a part of any organization's fabric and should be given top priority at the Board and Leadership level. Creating a safety-minded workforce is important and can only be achieved through regular training and awareness campaigns. The role of Safety Officers can help develop an active safety-minded workforce by promoting a safety-conscious culture that helps prepare employees to ensure safe operations and be ready for any eventuality.

Building a Safety Conscious culture is a long-term continuous process, so we hope the Safety professionals will take important learnings from this conference back to their organization and start applying them at various levels. Organizations must build safety mandates in all procurement policies so that suppliers are in sync with their safety culture and they will in turn help in spreading safety awareness across the entire supply chain.

Grace Braganza, Project Leader of the event mentioned that "there is a burgeoning demand for such an event and holds an important place on the national development agenda of Oman, specifically on Human Resource & Assets". The takeaway message from the conference is that loss prevention is everybody's responsibility, loss to human resources is by far the biggest loss followed by machine, material and workplace facilities.

OMAN OIL LAUNCHES NEW PORTABLE CONTAINER FUEL STATION



Spearheading the future of Oman's fuel industry, Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) recently held its Commercial Container Event highlighting its latest innovative fuel solutions for businesses and announcing the launch of its new Portable Fuel Container Station, a service set to

offer mobile fuel services to a wide range of industries across the Sultanate. The Portable Container Fuel Station is an easily and transportable, mini-fuelling station, perfect for a wide range of applications and industries including fully functioning retail sites, modular fuel farms, rigs and off-plot sites, marine fuel storage and refueling, aviation tanks and dispensing, a range of military applications, mining and quarry support, commercial road transport, and power generation.

"The event was a great opportunity for us to touch base with our commercial clients, with whom we have solid and long-standing relationships, showcase our latest services and technologies, and reinforce our commitment to offering them quality products and services. Through our new and innovative services, we aim to cater to all sectors and help support the continued diversification of Oman's economy," he added.

The event underscored OOMCO's long-term strategy to transform the Sultanate's fuel industry by introducing state-of-the-art products and services across all aspects of the business, both locally and internationally. With a focus on the development of strategic partnerships and offering services that deliver more than just fuel, the company aims to position itself among the top five fuel marketers in the GCC by 2025.

PDO HOSTS EXPERT OMANI TRANSLATOR'S FORUM

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) held the fourth Omani Translators Forum, bringing together professional translators from various organizations to discuss best practices and debate themes relevant to their profession.

The event, which was attended by more

than 350 participants, was held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre under the patronage of HE Sayyid Saoud bin Hilal bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat.

The theme of the forum was "The Language Industry and its Contribution to National Economies" and there were three main presentation papers on different topics related to the subject, a discussion panel on future trends in the language industry as well as two practical workshops on interpreting and translator employment skills.

PDO's Head of Translation Services Saleh Al Alawi said, "The organization of this forum stems from our belief that Oman is well equipped to be a trailblazer in the translation industry at the regional level. This acquires importance as the editorial and translation sectors are becoming increasingly more significant in the age of the knowledge economy and is in line with the Oman 2040 vision for economic diversification.

New website

During the event, the Company also launched a new website for its magazine Al Manhal, which explores new initiatives and achievements in the Omani oil and gas industry, specifically those carried out by PDO.



MEMBER NEWS

NTI HOLDS TECHPRO 2019 CONFERENCE AND AWARDS



Oman witnessed the inception of the NTI TechPro Conference and Awards, the country's first Technical Vocational Skills Conference and Awards, at the Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel recently.

Organized in association with United Media Services (UMS) Group by National Training Institute (NTI), the ceremony commemorated the nation's brightest technical talent and used the forum to discuss the way forward for the technical education sector. The event was under the auspices of HH Sayyid Tarik bin Shabib, Director, Renaissance Services SAOG. Spanning over a day, the event was attended by nearly 700 of the Sultanate's leading industry figures, corporate officials, luminaries, and technical professionals across the morning and evening sessions.

The event was powered by industry stalwarts – Petroleum Development Oman, Renaissance Services SAOG, Oman Oil and Orpic Group, Oman LNG LLC, AREEJ Vegetable Oils & Derivatives SAOC, Voltamp Group, Al Tasnim Group, Genetco, and ENGIE STOMO. The technical conference was inaugurated by HE Dr. Muna Salim Al Jardani, Undersecretary, Ministry of Manpower and the award ceremony held with HE Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Oil & Gas and HE Salim bin Nasser Al Afi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Oil & Gas as Guests of Honour.

NTI TechPro 2019 Conference and Awards was organized with the fundamental theme – 'A skilled workforce today, for a sustainable tomorrow' and was trending under the hashtag – '#TechSkillsOman'. The event raised awareness on nurturing technical and vocational skill levels and provide further impetus to the nation's ICV roadmap. This will further build momentum to accelerate individual technical careers, as well as envision the development of the country's technical sector.

The conference entailed in-depth, interactive sessions including two-panel discussions emphasizing the 'Technician's Expectations, Aspirations, and Challenges at the Workplace' followed by 'Expectations and Challenges at the Workplace' from an employer's standpoint. The speakers also discussed the 'employers' role in developing technicians' and 'apprenticeship schemes (Omanisation scope)' followed by the evening session consisting of a CEO panel on – 'Technicians for Today and Tomorrow: Best Practices and Challenges' and the award ceremony in the end. A guest speaker from Petroleum Development Oman also enlightened the audience by sharing his viewpoints on 'Expectations and Challenges from Training for Employment Program Experience'. All speakers concluded that progress is still needed to address the skills mismatch and the market competitiveness, calling out future Omanis for honing their skillsets. They also wished to see better partnerships between corporates and educational institutions and anticipated increased participation by students to win the future editions of the NTI TechPro Awards.

The all-day event ended with the NTI TechPro Awards being held in the evening, felicitating winners under the higher secondary and diploma holder category. The former category was subcategorized into Mechanical, Welding, Instrumentation, and Electrical while the latter was divided into Electrical, Operators, Instrumentation, Mechanical and Chemical Process. The biggest accolade of the evening, 'The Technician of the Year Award' was also given to an individual demonstrating substantive contributions to the technical field. Apart from receiving a glittering trophy and certificate, the winners were also rewarded with an upgrade to a level 3 qualification by NTI. The NTI TechPro Awards were also given to a few selected companies for their 'Exceptional contribution in developing local talent and fueling Oman's economy.'

GBM OMAN IS CELEBRATING THE GBM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

On September 23rd, 2019, GBM Oman hosted the graduation ceremony of their GBM Internship program. The program was launched 6 years ago, in collaboration with ITA. Since then, 3 cohorts of interns have successfully graduated from the program, with some interns being offered permanent positions. The year-long internship has 2 phases; a 2 months rotation across 8 functions within GBM and 10 months hands-on job training with full exposure to the business and its clients.

"After being trained for 2 weeks we started handling tasks by ourselves. It was a challenge. We had to contact multiple departments/sites and explain to them what we were doing. And as careful as we tried to do it, we did some mistakes. With the mentorship and guidance of GBM's experienced teams, we were able to break through challenges and learned from mistakes. These mistakes and challenges only made us stronger." Said Adam Abdullah Alfalahi.

The ceremony recognized the achievements of 5 interns and accomplishments, which have only been possible as part of a bigger initiative on a much larger scale, a vision that has inspired a nationwide movement and inspired actions all across Oman.

"I am proud to be leading a private sector company, GBM, whose management actively hires Omanis, and puts them at the forefront, values their contributions and believes they are the true assets of the organization. We actively invest into their development and empower them to prepare them for tomorrow", concluded Eddy Abboud.



OMAN FINALIZING DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SIXTH HEAVY OIL BLOCK



Oman is currently finalizing development plans for the Habbab oil field and is looking at potential investors, according to HE Salim bin Nasser al Afi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil and Gas, who was speaking at the World Heavy Oil Congress & Exhibition (WHOC)

inauguration on Monday.

The undersecretary said that Oman would continue to invest in the heavy oil sector despite the current concerns over oil demand and added that the last bidding round launched by the Ministry of Oil and Gas had at least one block that can be considered as a heavy oil block.

"We are quite surprised by the interest we received for that particular block. We are currently finalizing the details, which we believe will be potentially attractive for developers. We will announce the block as soon as these details are finalized. Besides this, we are also looking for a potential investor for the Habbab oil field, which is also very challenging. The Ministry of Oil and Gas is currently finalizing development for the block. As soon as the development plan is finalized, we will present it to investors."

Once operational, the Habbab oil field will be the sixth heavy oil block and has promising hydrocarbon potential, said to be in the order of one billion barrels of oil in place. Oman already has five operational heavy oil blocks, four of which are maintained by Petroleum Development Oman while one is run by Occidental Oman.

The Undersecretary added that different recovery mechanisms are used to recover heavy oil in Oman and it accounts for 15-20% of the total crude produced by the sultanate. Heavy oil or hydrocarbon reserves are not easy to explore or extract and therefore require additional procedures and methods.

MEMBER NEWS

FIRE AND SAFETY PROGRAMS AT ICEM



The College offers its services to all segments of society and its institutions in the public and private sectors and beyond to the Arab and neighboring countries in the Middle East.

Since its establishment in 1995, the College has been keen to bring international accreditations in the field of vocational training by prestigious institutions.

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- Airport Crew Commander Revalidation
- Airport Watch Commander Initial
- Airport Watch Commander Revalidation
- NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor 1- (IFSAC)
- NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 1 - (IFSAC)
- NFPA 1002 Driver / Operator - (IFSAC)
- NFPA 1006 Technical Rescue - (IFSAC)
- NFPA 1006 Technical Rescue - (IFSAC)

We are very proud that ICEM has trained very large numbers of students, staff, and officials inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman. ICEM has many strategic plans to enhance the quality of its courses by more and more affiliations with the best international standards.

Nasser bin Ali bin Suleiman Al Abri

SENIOR FIRE AND SAFETY INSTRUCTOR

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Construction Project Management



International College of Engineering and Management start offering the Bachelor of Science (Honors) Program in **Construction Project Management** as part of its affiliation with the University of Central Lancashire in the UK. The CPM program focuses on providing students with the theoretical aspects of construction project management with hands-on experience in various practical activities within the college and the industry.

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PDO SIGNS ICV DEALS WITH OMANI FIRMS

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has signed eight new ICV contracts worth around \$61 million with Omani companies to provide important manufacture, maintenance, manpower, and transport services.

The deals were signed by PDO Managing Director Raoul Restucci and senior executives of the community-owned firms at an official ceremony at the Company's Knowledge Worldbuilding.

Three of the companies are Omani manufacturing start-ups and were established in line with PDO's drive to implement the In-Country Value (ICV) Blueprint Strategy for the oil and gas industry announced in 2013 to create more job, training, commercial and investment opportunities for national businesses.

Three five-year contracts were signed with Oman Flanges Production, Solid Earth and Gulf Fasteners, which are newly established small and medium enterprises (SMEs) located in Nizwa, Barka and Rusail respectively.

Another contract – which will run to the end of May 2023 – is with Local Community Contractor (LCC) Sahwat Haima for the provision of personnel commuting services to and from accommodation camps, local villages and Marmul Airport in South Oman.

PDO also signed two contracts – which will run to the end of November 2020 – with LCCs Sana'a Desert Trading and Murtafaat Shaleem Trading & Contracting to provide manpower.

These deals will create more than 200 jobs for Omanis in the North and South of PDO's concession area to work as carpenters, dispatchers, warehouse staff and general helpers.

Two other deals were sealed with Super Local Community Contractor (SLCC) Al Shawamikh Oil Services and LCC Al-Ghalbi International Engineering and Contracting to carry out maintenance work on the Main Oil Line in Central and North Oman respectively.

The agreements –which will run until November 2022 – will cover protective coating work on key pipeline sections to prevent corrosion.



ONE YEAR RECORDABLE FREE MILESTONE FOR VIKING SERVICES

Viking Services have reached its first one-year milestone of being FREE from recordable incidents. "The safety of the crew, clients and visitors shall remain our foremost concern and we need to workday in / day out to continue to remove or mitigate hazards whilst carrying our duties in this challenging environment. During the year we have had various types of other incidents and we need to make sure we use these events as the process of learning lessons and recognize that our work is never done until we achieve "the target ZERO" and assure our clients that "yes we can". Congratulations to everyone at I-33 and we shall all be looking forward to achieving more milestones in the years to come", said Mark Spiteri, Global QHSE Director.



MEMBER NEWS

SASLO BRIDGING PROGRAM FOR LAW GRADUATES LAUNCHED



SASLO Legal Training Center ("SLTC") entered into agreements with Petroleum Development Oman ("PDO") and Said Al Shahry & Partners, a Civil Advocacy firm, for training 100 fresh law graduates in the Proficiency of Legal Practice, which is a bridging program between academia and the legal practice. The bridging program has 2 parts – Practical Legal Skills and Legal English.

The first part, Practical Legal Skills program is sponsored by Said al Shahry & Partners, one of Oman's leading law firms. The practical skills program focuses on practical

skills required for lawyers to perform their work efficiently. It includes subjects such as Professional Ethics & Conduct, Professional Care & Due Diligence, Omani Court procedures, legal procedures, drafting skills, management of law offices etc. Visits to law offices, Courts and government departments connected with legal practice are part of the program. In the second part, Legal English program is sponsored by PDO. As English is largely accepted as the language of business in Oman, Legal English becomes an essential part of a Lawyer's communication skills with clients (both local and

international) and stakeholders. It includes elements such as understanding legal opinions, drafting agreements, communicating court judgments, updating clients about court proceedings, etc.

The first batch of 20 law graduates, who are job seekers, started the Legal English Program on 3rd September 2019. The program was launched in presence of the SLTC's founder, Said Al Shahry, PDO's representative, Amur Al Rahbi, Training Quality Advisor and the management of SLTC.

The Founder of SLTC, Said Al Shahry emphasized the importance of advocacy as a profession for the country, judiciary and business community. He stated that SLTC has trained more than 7,000 legal and non-legal professionals on legal programs since its inception in 2008 thereby making a significant contri-

bution to raising legal awareness in the government, private and professional sectors.

Amur Al Rahbi, PDO's representative, highlighted PDO's commitment to creating in-country value and serving the national objectives. This is the first time that PDO is turning towards capacity building of legal professionals and has very high expectations from this pilot batch of trainees to take this program very seriously for their own good and for that of the country, he added.

Thamer Al Shahry, partner at Said Al Shahry & Partners stated the law firm's commitment to the program as sponsor of the first part of the program is part of its corporate social responsibility and so far the law firm has sponsored around 80 trainees. He said that the firm was happy to be associated with PDO, a leader in Corporate Social Responsibility.

OMAN TO HOST INTERNATIONAL GAS UNION RESEARCH CONFERENCE IN 2020



Muscat will host International Gas Union's (IGU) 16th International Gas Union Research Conference (IGRC 2020) on 24-26 February 2020, in collaboration with Oman LNG and under the patronage of Oman's Ministry of Oil and Gas.

A triennial event, this is the first time the conference will be hosted in the Middle East.

The three-day conference is expected to attract over 1,000 participants from over 40 countries, according to a media release, and bring enormous socio-economic benefits to Oman and promote the country as an important foothold in the conferences, exhibitions, and events space.

At a press conference, Prof. (JM) Joe Kang, President of the IGU addressed members of the media. "Research, development and innovation are fundamental to the future of the natural gas industry and it is particularly exciting to bring IGRC to this region for the first time," he said.

According to Khalid Al Massan, CEO, Oman LNG Development Foundation and Chair of IGRC 2020 National Organizing Committee, "The timing of the event cannot be better as it comes amid ambitious gas discoveries and a booming gas industry... Such outstanding success is attributed to the on-going cooperation between the International Gas Union and Oman LNG with the immense support of the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre."

PDO ANNOUNCES FIVE NEW SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS



Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has unveiled its commitment to support a raft of new community initiatives as part of its Social Investment programme. The latest five agreements include commitments in the key areas of health, agriculture and infrastructure.

The Company is partially funding the construction of Al Wafa Rehabilitation Centre in Samail. The 822-square-metre facility, which is also being supported by a local donor, will provide a safe and modern environment for disabled children and reduce commuting exposure.

On the health and safety front, the Company is increasing its support for the construction of Thumrait Hospital, which is the largest medical facility in the area. It will serve a large portion of the community and potentially PDO staff and contractors due to its proximity to Harweel. In addition, 10 electronic beds have been funded for the Renal Dialysis unit in Nizwa Hospital to enhance the quality of this crucial service and ease the suffering of patients.

PDO is also funding the repair and maintenance of the Falaj Al Asgharyn in Manah, which is watering more than 10,000 palm trees in the area, and installing shades for selling livestock and animal food in the Hamra Al Duru slaughterhouse, also funded by PDO. Both projects will enhance the value chain in the agriculture and farming industries.

The five funding agreements confirming these commitments were signed at an official ceremony held under the auspices of His Excellency Dr Darwish bin Saif Al Maharbi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Administrative and Financial Affairs, at PDO's Knowledge World venue in Muscat today (11 September).

The ceremony also included the graduation of 25 disabled people from a four-month training programme funded by PDO. The graduates are currently working as cashiers at supermarkets in different locations including Muscat, Nizwa, Sohar and Barka.

The agreements confirming these commitments were signed by Mr Restucci and senior government officials, including H.E. Dr Darwish Al Maharbi; H.E. Ali bin Mohammed Al Abri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources for Water Resources; and H.E. Sheikh Majed bin Khalifa Al Harhi, Wali of Samail.

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HSE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

What is special about the program?!

1. Reflect the National Occupational Standard;
2. Developed by the Sector;
3. Fully funded Program;
4. Help companies to get the competent Omani candidates for HSE positions;
5. Nationally and Internationally accredited program.

The program targets the following:

1. New opportunities for Job seekers are the main target: employers are encouraged to pledge for HSE vacancies for HSE Advisor. OPAL will support in getting the right candidates and to fund the full program cost including training cost and a stipend of 150 per candidates per month. The employer may add on the stipend to encourage their candidates retain during the program and towards their full employments.
2. New employees who join HSE departments or those who shift their jobs to HSE. However, the cost should be covered by employer.

There are two level of targets

1. Diploma holder/degree will have to study for 18 months both off-job and on job training (total of 6 months off job + 12 months on job).
2. Secondary school leaver they have to study 24 months (6 months foundation, 6 months off-job – 12 months on-job).

For more details on HSE Apprenticeship programs please contact:

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Lifting Operations Competency Card Scheme



Aims and Rational

- Raise the standards of competency in the field of Lifting and Moving loads
- Provide a tangible means for testing all personnel involved with operating and managing the lifting and movement of loads
- Satisfy the MoMP's mandate for Skills Testing
- Maintain a high level of quality control over the skills testing process
- Ensure that all operators in the field of lifting and moving loads meet the Oman NOS
- Ensure the requirements of the Stakeholders are met with regards to accreditation and recognition for the process
- Issue secure competency cards that can be easily verified by client companies

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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