

The Gulf Intelligence Oman Energy Industry-Academia



October 18th 2016 | Grand Hyatt | Muscat

#GIForum



Occidental of Oman Inc.
أوكسيدنتال عمان انكروبريتد



شركة تنمية نفط عمان
Petroleum Development Oman



مجمع الابتكار مسقط
Innovation Park Muscat



مجلس البحث العلمي
The Research Council

GlassPoint



الشركة العمانية للغاز الطبيعي المسال ش.م.م.
Oman LNG L.L.C.

Welcome Note by Summit Chairman

How to Narrow Gap Between Industry & Academia to Establish Efficient R&D Partnerships?

“For Industry and Academia to be aligned and deliver an enhanced R&D ecosystem through efficient partnerships, they need to know each other!” Dr. Syham Bentouati, Managing Director, NAFAS International

While the Sultanate of Oman has historically been able to use petro-dollars to fuel strong development over decades, its economic and demographic growth is now poised to outstrip resources, posing a complex nexus of questions about how best to diversify its energy mix while ensuring energy security, and is it possible to do both without liberalizing the economy. There is no doubt Oman faces major energy challenges in the coming years as conventional fossil fuel resources dwindle and its young population continues to grow rapidly, which propels R&D to the center of the biggest and smallest innovative solutions.

The alignment between Oman’s Industry and Academia must be urgently improved in order for Oman to deliver an enhanced R&D ecosystem that fosters efficient public-private partnerships. Academia cannot do research for research sake; efforts have to be focused in order to deliver results that are useful to the Industry and to Oman as a whole. Academia needs to fully understand the challenges that the Industry faces – legislative and economic hurdles, for example – and work with private and public companies to find solutions.

Equally, the Industry needs to appreciate the capacity and limits of local universities and research institutions. Industry must also be ready to come to the aid of institutions to help advance their learning and research capabilities to help ensure that Oman’s Academia has the tools it needs to facilitate world class R&D. The benefits of such academic growth will feed back into the Industry and Oman’s economic growth.

Over the last 10 years, Oman has demonstrated a brave commitment to groundbreaking technologies that has successfully stemmed and reversed a dramatic decline in domestic oil production. It is critical in this challenging period of lower for longer oil prices that Oman sustains this pioneering spirit -- enhanced cooperation and partnership between Industry and Academia offers a very efficient and successful pathway to greater success in overcoming the challenges of tomorrow.

One hundred stakeholders from industry, academia, and government gathered for The Oman Energy Forum Industry Workshop on Oct. 20th, 2015, from which Gulf Intelligence harvested The Oman Energy Master Plan 2040 – Draft Report. The 2040 Master Plan put forward 15 recommendations for Oman to adopt, with the number one recommendation in the R&D stream calling on all stakeholders to Narrow the Gap between Industry & Academia to Establish Efficient R&D Partnerships, and we are gathered here today under the patronage of our Host Sultan Qaboos University to strive to achieve that objective.

Gulf Intelligence is a UAE-based strategic communications consultancy that facilitates critical Knowledge Exchange and Networking between stakeholders operating across the South-South Corridor -- connecting Government Related Entities in the Middle East and their International Partners trading across this New Silk-Road passageway from Asia to Africa.

Brian Cozzolino Senior Associate, Gulf Intelligence

Brian Cozzolino is a market research specialist, sector analyst, and a thought leader with experience throughout the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. Presently, Brian works as a Senior Associate at Gulf Intelligence where he operates across the company’s three segments; Consulting, Publishing, and Intelligence (GIQ). He is responsible for engaging with key energy stakeholders across the GCC to extract intelligence and analyze trends impacting the industry. He develops the knowledge architecture and structure for the forums produced under the Gulf Intelligence brand. Brian covers topics ranging from geopolitics, energy markets and alignment of industry-academia on national priorities. Previously, Brian worked at The Prospect Group, where he was responsible for opening up new country assignments, developing short- and medium-term country strategies, establishing in-country networks of key relationships, and producing market analyses. In this tenure, he conducted extensive research of critical industries such as Energy, Infrastructure, Finance, and Transportation.

Summit Host



Sultan Qaboos University

Since its inception in 1986, Sultan Qaboos University was dedicated to realizing its vision of becoming internationally recognized for its high quality graduates, research and community service and attaining and maintaining the status of Oman’s house of expertise. SQU is currently providing high quality education through nine colleges accommodating more than 15,000 undergraduate students and around 1500 postgraduate students. The SQU hospital which is opened by His majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said in February 1990 is considered as one of the leading hospitals in the region in teaching, research and health care. It has 528 beds and plans for further expansion. In addition to that, the University has currently ten research centers and eight support centers. The University has paid special attention to research, which is considered by SQU as a key pillar of its scientific and academic reputation, serving the economic and social needs of the country. It has made constant efforts and provided the resources for creating a research environment which would help develop its activities, publish their results and disseminate them. As such, SQU is committed to contributing to the generation of knowledge and scientific solutions for the benefit of local as well as global communities.



H.E. Dr. Ali Al-Bimani Vice Chancellor, Sultan Qaboos University

Dr. Ali Al-Bimani is the 5th Vice Chancellor of the Sultan Qaboos University since 12th February, 2008. Upon completion of his Bachelor studies from the University of Texas, Austin, 1980; Dr. Al-Bimani was appointed as a Petroleum Engineer at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), from 1980 to 1985. Subsequently, when he moved to the Sultan Qaboos University in 1986, his vast accomplishments commenced as he undertook his Masters & PhD in the University of Southern California during 1986-1992 and became a thriving academician who started teaching in the Department of Petroleum & Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering, and who eventually became the Head of the Department. He was then, appointed, as assistant to the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research at SQU, then as Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Community Services. From there, he was finally appointed, the Vice Chancellor of the University. Dr. Al-Bimani has an impressive research background with numerous scientific publications, in international reputable journals, encyclopedia entries, conference proceedings, technical reports for various organizations in Oman and overseas, as well as other accomplishments. He relishes his continued involvement in teaching and research and contributes energetically to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in various fields of his study even while he is a Vice Chancellor. He is also a member of many internal and external, academic, and planning committees in which he participates in important decision-making roles. Dr. Al-Bimani has made many academic contributions relevant to higher education by serving in many Organizations and Councils such as, Oman Council for Education, the Research Council, Oman Medical Specialty Board, Board of Trustees for Colleges of Applied Sciences, Board of Trustees Sharia College, and Committees such as the Executive Committee for University of Oman Project, the Supreme Committee for the Generations College of Science Craft Industries and Professions, and the National Committee of Bioethics. All these contributions have played a major role in the advancement of the Sultan Qaboos University status. As a Vice Chancellor, Dr. Bimani has introduced several innovative ideas for the University and he has accomplished several projects including developing new Policies at SQU. He also achieved major strides in increasing awareness of Bioethics at the University and in the country. Dr. Ali is happily married with three children.



Summit Knowledge Partner



مجمع الابتكار مسقط
Innovation Park Muscat



مجلس البحث العلمي
The Research Council

The Research Council (TRC) was established on 22nd of June 2005, pursuant to the Royal Decree number 54/2005, and is designated to carrying out tasks related to research and endeavors to promote and support research through all possible means. As a focal point for research and innovation, TRC acts and liaises with various institutions concerned with research and serves as the main national authority in this area. TRC is both a policy-making institution and a funding agency. The Decree mandated TRC to undertake several research responsibilities, the most important of which are the following:

1. Promote scientific enquiry and disseminating scientific knowledge, while nurturing people with research talent and creating new techniques and methods that assist in propelling social and economic development and improving the living standards of all citizens.
2. Foster and encourage researchers by providing all supporting material and any moral support. Introduce the private sector to various opportunities for investment within the field of science and technology, and provide these investors with the necessary scientific research services.
3. Build research capacities by supporting research chairs and establishing scientific research centers while using media to spread awareness of the important role of science, technology, innovation and creativity in achieving sustainable development.

In line with the above, the National Research Strategy for the Sultanate of Oman (2008-2020), and sectoral strategies have been established by TRC. The mission of The National Research Strategy is the following: "Create an innovation ecology that is responsive to local needs and international trends, fosters social harmony and leads to creativity and excellence".

Special Guest



H.E. Salim Al Afi Undersecretary, Ministry of Oil & Gas, Oman

Salim Al Afi is a graduate of Heriot-Watt University with Master's Degree in Petroleum Engineering. He joined Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in 1992 and progressed within the organization in different technical and leadership capacities to become the North Oman Director in 2010.

Throughout his career Salim held different local and international posts, including head of corporate planning, chief petroleum engineering and operation manager roles. During his period with PDO, Salim was posted to work for Shell Nigeria as Petroleum Engineer and Asset Planner and also to Shell Canada as the VP of Production.

Salim was appointed by His Majesty as the Chief Executive Officer for the Public Authority for Civil Aviation in May 2012 and in December 2013 he was appointed as the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Oil & Gas.



H.E. Dr. Hilal Al Hinai Secretary General, The Research Council

Dr. Al-Hinai is the Secretary General of The Research Council. He was the Director of the Water Research Center and an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Sultan Qaboos University. He obtained his B.Eng. in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Bradford University in 1986 and joined Sultan Qaboos University as a Maintenance Engineer. He obtained his M.Sc. (1988) and Ph.D. (1992) from the Applied Energy Department at Cranfield Institute of Technology in the UK. Beside his teaching duty, he was appointed as an Academic Assistant for Innovation and Industrial Links at SQU.

Dr. Al-Hinai's research interests are in Solar Energy and Water Desalination with emphasis on solar water desalination and on Solar Cooling Techniques for Buildings in Hot Climates.

Summit Premier Partner



Occidental of Oman Inc.
أوكسيدنتال عمان انكروپريتد

Occidental Petroleum Corporation is an international oil and gas exploration and production company with operations in the United States, Middle East and Latin America. Headquartered in Houston, Occidental is one of the largest U.S. oil and gas companies, based on equity market capitalization. Occidental's midstream and marketing segment gathers, processes, transports, stores, purchases and markets hydrocarbons and other commodities. The company's wholly owned subsidiary OxyChem manufactures and markets basic chemicals and vinyls.

Our ranking with the S&P 500, which is based on market capitalization, was No. 89 at Dec. 31, 2015.

Occidental is committed to safeguarding the environment, protecting the safety and health of employees and neighboring communities, and upholding high standards of social responsibility in all of the company's worldwide operations.



Stephen A. Kelly
President and General Manager, Occidental of Oman, Inc

Appointed in 2016, Steve oversees Oxy's oil and gas operations in Oman, which comprise four producing blocks: Blocks 9, 27 and 62 in the North and Block 53 in the South. In this capacity, he is responsible for all of the company's operations, production and exploration in Oman, where Oxy is the largest independent oil producer. Steve has over 30 years of industry experience encompassing senior management of onshore and offshore operations. Immediately prior to his current appointment, he served as President and General Manager of Oxy Qatar, where Oxy operates three offshore projects: Idd El Shargi North Dome (ISND), Idd El Shargi South Dome (ISSD) and Al Rayyan. He joined Oxy in 1995, holding progressively senior engineering and project management positions during the initial development phases for both ISND and ISSD in Qatar. He was a member of Oxy's Business Development group from 2001 to 2003, focusing on Middle East projects, including Oxy's acquisition of its stake in Dolphin Energy Ltd. Prior to joining Oxy, Steve acquired six years of direct experience in North Sea projects, including two years on location offshore for start-up and ongoing operations. His early career positions included safety and environmental consultancy, dynamic simulation and onshore gas and petrochemical plant engineering and operations. Steve holds a B.Sc. (Eng.) in Chemical Engineering from University College London. He is a Chartered Engineer and a member of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Summit Premier Partner



شركة تنمية نفط عمان
Petroleum Development Oman

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is the major hydrocarbon exploration and production company in the Sultanate of Oman. It accounts for about 70% of the country's crude oil production and nearly all of its natural gas supply. Gas fields and processing plants are operated by PDO exclusively on behalf of the Government.

PDO is a limited liability company which is owned by the Government of Oman (which has a 60% interest), the Shell Group (34%), Total (4%) and Partex (2%), and operates on a no-profit, no-loss basis and is officially revenue-neutral.

Our mission is to find, develop and produce oil and gas responsibly, and profitably, in order to contribute to the sustainable development of Oman to the benefit of all stakeholders. Indeed, we are the custodians of the major source of national income and one of the largest private sector employers in Oman. We manage a large and diverse portfolio of oilfields in terms of field sizes, reservoir and oil types, development methods and maturity and aims to improve the recovery factor of hydrocarbons through the application of a combination of water floods, world-leading well and reservoir management, the latest innovative technology and pioneering enhanced oil recovery (EOR) techniques.

The Company has become a global pioneer in EOR due to its maturing asset base and the complexity and challenging nature of Oman's geology and the three main methods it currently uses are thermal, chemical and gas.



Raoul Restucci
Managing Director, Petroleum Development Oman LLC

Raoul started his career in Shell International in 1980, following his graduation from Nottingham University in the UK with a degree in mining engineering. After working in The Hague in production technology, he held several positions in Brunei in the areas of well-site operations, production engineering and economics, before moving to Qatar Petroleum as head of Economics and Planning, followed by Production Technology and later as Petroleum Engineering Manager at Al Furat Petroleum Company in Syria.

Following this, Raoul served Shell in several other senior positions; he later was appointed Executive Vice President for Middle East, Russia and CIS, of Shell E&P Middle East based in Dubai, and was a member of PDO's Board of Directors representing Shell. He assumed the role of Managing Director in October 2010 and in this position is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Company in accordance with the programme and within the budget approved by the Board of Directors.

Summit Feature Guests



Dr. Rahma Al-Mahrooqi
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research, Sultan Qaboos University

Dr. Rahma Al-Mahrooqi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research, is an Associate Professor of English at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), where she has worked for over 23 years. Among many academic and administrative positions held, she has coordinated tertiary English courses and an ESP program for SQU's College of Science and for almost four years she was SQU's Language Center Director. Dr. Al-Mahrooqi was also the Director of Sultan Qaboos University's Humanities Research Center for a year and a half. She has published widely on English language teaching and learning in Oman with major focus areas in teaching and reading, literature, and English communication skills. A creative write, Dr. Al-Mahrooqi has published also a collection of short stories in Arabic about women issues and has authored a book on Omani women.



Dr. Samira Omar Asem
Director General, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

Samira Omar Asem is the Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. Dr. Asem has forty years of research and development experience. She has led many projects to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems and promote sustainable agriculture in Kuwait. In addition to her work at KISR, Dr. Asem is also a Research Fellow at The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for the Advancement of Sciences in the Developing Countries and a receiver of many honors and awards including the 2016 Medal Lectures honored by TWAS in November 2015. Dr. Asem is a certified Rangeland Manager, issued by the Society of Range Management, California Section, USA, and has advised many local, regional and international organizations. She is also a member of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD). She has been an elected Vice President of the Executive Board for the Arab Region of OWSD since 2012 and Regional Councilor for IUCN West Asia Region. Dr. Asem holds a Ph.D. in Wild Land Resource Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Prof. Saif Al Bahry
Director Oil and Gas Research Center, Sultan Qaboos University

Professor Saif Al-Bahry is a faculty at the Department of Biology, College of Science, SQU. He was the Head of the Department and later became a Dean of the College. Currently, He is the Director of Oil and Gas Research Center, SQU. His MSc was from the University of Wisconsin, USA, and PhD from the University of New Hampshire, USA. He was a Co-Chair of the Academic Council of the new University of Oman. During his deanship, he has established a high-end Central Applied and Analytical Research Unit (CAARU). He was involved in the establishment of undergraduate biotechnology program (1997), MSc and PhD programs. He assisted in setting up the new applied biotechnology program in Sur College of Applied Sciences, Oman His is a multidisciplinary researcher. His research interests and experiences include crude oil recovery, bioenergy, oil souring, bioremediation, stress proteins, microbial genomics, spread of antibiotic-resistant-bacteria and heavy metals as indicators of pollution.background of more than 16 years' experience in the oil industry.

Summit Feature Guests



Dr. Syham Bentouati
Managing Director, Nafas International

Dr Syham is currently the Managing Director of NAFAS International LLC, a Technology, Innovation and Business consultancy company focusing on Sustainable Energy and Water, founded in October 2015. Prior to this, Dr Syham worked for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) for eight years, starting as Surface Technology Advisor then as the Technology Manager, facilitating the introduction of all new technologies and leaning all related processes. The last position was the R&D and Technology Lead within the In-Country Value Directorate. Before the the Oil and Gas sector, Dr Syham worked for Rolls-Royce Group in the UK and in the Nordic countries for seven years. She started in Aerospace working on the future More-Electric-Engine then moving to other sectors such as Corporate Engineering and Technology, Marine and Business Improvement, as part of her overall career development within the Rolls-Royce high potential pool. Dr Syham obtained her PhD in the Design of Electrical Machines and Drives from the University of Sheffield in the UK, after obtaining joint BEng (Hons) degrees from Nottingham Trent University in the UK and from Ecole Supérieure de Technologie Electrique in Paris, France. She is fluent in English, French and Arabic.



Faten Hani
Director, University of Oman Project

Faten Hani is the Director of the University of Oman Project Office; responsible for the planning, development and implementation of the University of Oman Project. Her specialty lies in strategy development and business planning, talent management and development, she has worked in the Middle East in the fields of business, leadership, human capital and community development for the last 23+ years covering regional, National and corporate plans. Prior to her role at the University of Oman Project Office, she was a Director at the private office of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in Dubai. Faten was the Chief Executive Officer of DIFC Centre of excellence. Prior to that, Faten has been the Chief Human Capital Officer at the DIFC and a member of its executive committee since its very inception in 2002. Before that, she was a Development Project Manager for the National Human Resources Development Authority in the UAE. She has also served as a Quality Development Manager in HSBC Middle East Management Office. She was the Chairperson of the Business Advisory Committee of the Higher Colleges of Technology in the UAE and a member of the business advisory group at IMD Business School in Switzerland. She acts as an Education Advisor to regional Governments and privates bodies.



Dr. Issa Sulaiman Al-Amri
Director of DARIS Centre for Scientific Research and Technology Development, University of Nizwa

Dr. Issa Al-Amri is currently holding the positions of Director of DARIS Centre for Scientific Research and Technology Development, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences and Chemistry, Head of Electron Microscopy Unit and member of the Research Council at University of Nizwa. His was previously working at Sultan Qaboos University as the Director of Electron Microscopy Unit in College of Medicine & Health Sciences, and was a member of the Strategic Committee for Human Resource Development Plan. Dr. Al-Amri received his BSc from Glasgow Caledonian University (UK), MSc from the University of Wales (UK) and PhD from the University of Portsmouth (UK). Dr. Issa research interests focused on cancer biology, reproductive biology, physiology and endocrinology, nanobiotechnology, electron microscopy and microanalysis. He authored and co-authored over 80 scientific papers and a book chapter, and developed several degree courses in University of Nizwa. He was responsible for the establishment of specialised applications laboratories for teaching and research in Sultan Qaboos University.

Summit Industry Partners



GlassPoint Solar is the leading supplier of solar to the oil and gas industry. The global oil and gas industry consumes an amount of energy equal to 10% of its own production, making it one of the biggest markets for renewable energy. Operating worldwide from the Middle East to California, GlassPoint's enclosed trough technology delivers the lowest cost energy to power oilfield operations. By harnessing sunshine, instead of burning natural gas or other fuels, GlassPoint helps oil producers reduce operating expenses while significantly cutting greenhouse gas emissions. GlassPoint is one of the fastest-growing solar companies in the world with more than one gigawatt of solar oilfield projects under construction. The World Economic Forum recently recognized GlassPoint as a 2016 Technology Pioneer for its role in enabling more economical and sustainable oil production. GlassPoint established its regional headquarters in the Sultanate of Oman in early 2012. The company's major shareholders include Royal Dutch Shell and State General Reserve Fund (SGRF), the largest sovereign wealth fund in Oman.

Dr. Chiaki Treynor Vice President of Technology, Glasspoint Solar



Chiaki works with GlassPoint's Chief Technology Officer to lead the research and engineering functions at GlassPoint. She brings experience from two decades of research, development, technology commercialization and management in her previous positions including Areva Solar and General Electric. She holds a Ph. D. degree from Stanford University in Chemistry, and a Hon. B. Sc. In Chemistry and Mathematics from the University of Toronto. Chiaki has authored numerous scientific publications and is a named inventor on over a dozen patents.



Oman Liquefied Natural Gas LLC (Oman LNG) is a joint venture established by a Royal Decree in 1994 and operates under the laws of the Sultanate of Oman. It produces and sells Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and its by-product Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been an integral part of Oman LNG through the investment of 1.5% net income after tax (NIAT) in the social development of sustainable programmes in the Sultanate established in the constitution when the company was founded. To further strengthen its robust CSR efforts, Oman LNG's Board of Directors decided to establish a separate legal foundation back in 2009. July 1st, 2015 marked the operational start-up of Oman LNG Development Foundation (ODF). The Foundation addresses many areas of social development in Oman, but in general comprises a Community Fund targeting initiatives related to the Sur Community where its plant is located, a National Fund that covers programmes across the Sultanate; a Reserve Fund to address the perpetuity of the programmes; and finally a Centre of Excellence to develop lasting CSR initiatives through partnering, knowledge sharing, funding and investments. Oman LNG Development Foundation is a subsidiary of Oman LNG. Oman LNG operates as a joint venture with a shareholding structure comprising the Government of Oman (51%), Shell Gas B.V (30%), Total S.A. (5.54%), Korea LNG (5%), Mitsubishi Corporation (2.77%), Mitsui & Co. (2.77%), Partex (Oman) Corporation (2%), and Itochu (0.92%).

Khalid Al Massan Chief Executive Officer – Oman LNG Development Foundation



As part of the newly established Oman LNG Development Foundation, Khalid Al Massan was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer. Khalid brings with him more than 30 years of diverse experience in various sectors of Oil and Gas Industry locally and globally. He started his working career with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) back in 1987, where he served in a number of positions in both Finance and Human Resources functions at different seniority levels, for a period of 18 years, before he was cross posted in Shell EP Dubai as Global Business Support Manager (ME, Russia, CIS) for 3 years. His experience span over functional Finance, HR and CA roles of governance and integrity to outposts in Business Areas in support for business achievements, branding and growth. He joined Qalhat LNG in 2005 and served initially as Strategic Treasurer followed by Finance Controller for few months before moving to become the Vice President for Corporate Affairs. In November 2012, Khalid was appointed by the Board of Directors as Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and Secretary to the Board. Khalid effective contribution and wide experience have been valued and shared at all levels of the business.

Summit Industry Partner



Oman Trading International Company Ltd. (OTI) is a commodity trading company owned by Oman Oil Company and Oman State General Reserves Fund. Established in 2006 with its headquarters in Dubai, the company has since expanded its presence to multiple geographies with offices in Muscat, Rotterdam, Singapore and Shanghai.

OTI's key role is to trade oil, petroleum products and petrochemicals through its extensive global trading and marketing network. Placed as the strategic partner to the Oman Refineries & Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic), OTI acts as Oman's sole supplier and offtaker of refined products including LPG, jet fuel, diesel and gasoline. Furthermore, OTI is the preferred off taker to Oman's crude producers, lifting in excess of 100,000 barrels per day of Oman Export Blend and delivering it to customers globally.



Talal Al Awfi CEO, Oman Trading International

Talal Al Awfi is currently the CEO of Oman Trading International, a company active in the trading of oil related products globally. He holds more than 18 years of experience in oil and petrochemical marketing and trading. He has held several key positions in both the government and private sectors, and has helped set up several key companies and activities including Oman Shipping Company and Oman's third LNG Train.

After joining Oman Oil Company, he was mandated with setting up Oman Trading International in 2005, now a recognized energy trading company in the region. He has been an active Board member of several companies covering diverse fields in the oil industry such as Oil production, refining, trading, shipping and petroleum distribution.

Mr. Al Awfi holds a BSc (Hons) in Business and Finance in addition to a Master's Degree in Marketing (MSc) from Manchester, United Kingdom

Breakout Sessions



Breakout Session 1: Hosted by Sultan Qaboos University

What are the Top 3 Strategies to Leverage Oman's Unique R&D Offering at Home and Beyond?

Oman's innovations, especially in the field of enhanced oil recovery (EOR) technologies, are the result of years, if not decades, of hard academic work in libraries and laboratories. Such innovations have the potential to benefit Oman's economy by both lowering production costs locally and by providing a platform for Muscat to export knowledge to other Gulf countries that also have challenging and maturing energy field. Oman's pioneering Miraah solar thermal project could be applied to fields in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other energy producers with high sunshine exposure along the equator, for example. The \$600 million project will deliver the largest peak energy output – 1,021 megawatts – of any solar plant in the world by harnessing the sun's energy to produce steam that can be injected into an oil reservoir.

Featured Speakers:

Host & Moderator: Prof. Saif Al Bahry, Director Oil and Gas Research Center, Sultan Qaboos University

- Dr. Abdulbaqi Al-Khabouri, Director, Science Parks, The Research Council
- Dr. Chiaki Treynor, Vice President of Technology, Glasspoint Solar
- Dr. Amer Al Rawas, Chief Executive Officer, Tasneea Oil and Gas Technologies

Breakout Sessions



Breakout Session 3: Hosted by Occidental of Oman

What are the Top 3 Strategies for Industry-Academia to Keep Omani PhD Students Local?

PhD students represent a crucial piece of Oman's intellectual power, yet the majority of Omani graduates move abroad for their studies and their theses rarely provide solutions to Oman's national challenges. The foreigners doing PhDs in Oman and financed by Omani funds often leave the country after graduation, which means the value of their research and knowledge does not get the attention it deserves, or feed back into Oman's economy. This is a dangerous imbalance for Muscat's target to become an innovation and knowledge-based economy as per the National Vision 2020 and it weakens the country's position on global academic and R&D listings.

Featured Speakers:

Host: Dr. Khalil Al Riyami, Vice President Exploration, Occidental of Oman

- Professor Yusra Mouzoughi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Muscat University
- Dr. Svetlana Rudyk, Chair – Oil and Gas Research Center, Sultan Qaboos University

Moderator: Dyala Sabbagh, Partner & COO, Gulf Intelligence



Breakout Session 2: Hosted by Petroleum Development Oman

What are the Top 3 Next Steps to Improve Oman's Talent In Order to Create an Innovative R&D Ecosystem?

The era we live in is marked by ecological and demographic challenges, increasing global competition and – as a result – a continuous change in the structure of society and the economy. On top of this, we are confronted with the effects of the international financial and economic crises on the public budget and on the medium-term growth potential of the domestic economy. Consequently, Oman must leverage its talent pool both in education and employment to create an innovative R&D ecosystem that will help guarantee economic security for generations to come. The eventual benefits of establishing an innovative and nationwide R&D ecosystem are vast. Benefits including the creation and, thereafter, reaffirmation of the country's culture of innovation, inspiration for students and employees to learn science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and bolster the economic potential of the country's energy assets. Plus, Muscat's ever-growing knowledge basin could create 'soft exports' to other energy producers.

Featured Speakers:

Host: Dr. Abdullah Al Abri, Technical Lead, Petroleum Development Oman

- Hilal Al-Busaidy, Chief Executive & Co founder, Gulf Energy International
- Prof. Anthony Cahalan, Vice Chancellor, Muscat University

Moderator: Sean Evers, Managing Partner, Gulf Intelligence



Breakout Session 4: Hosted by The Research Council

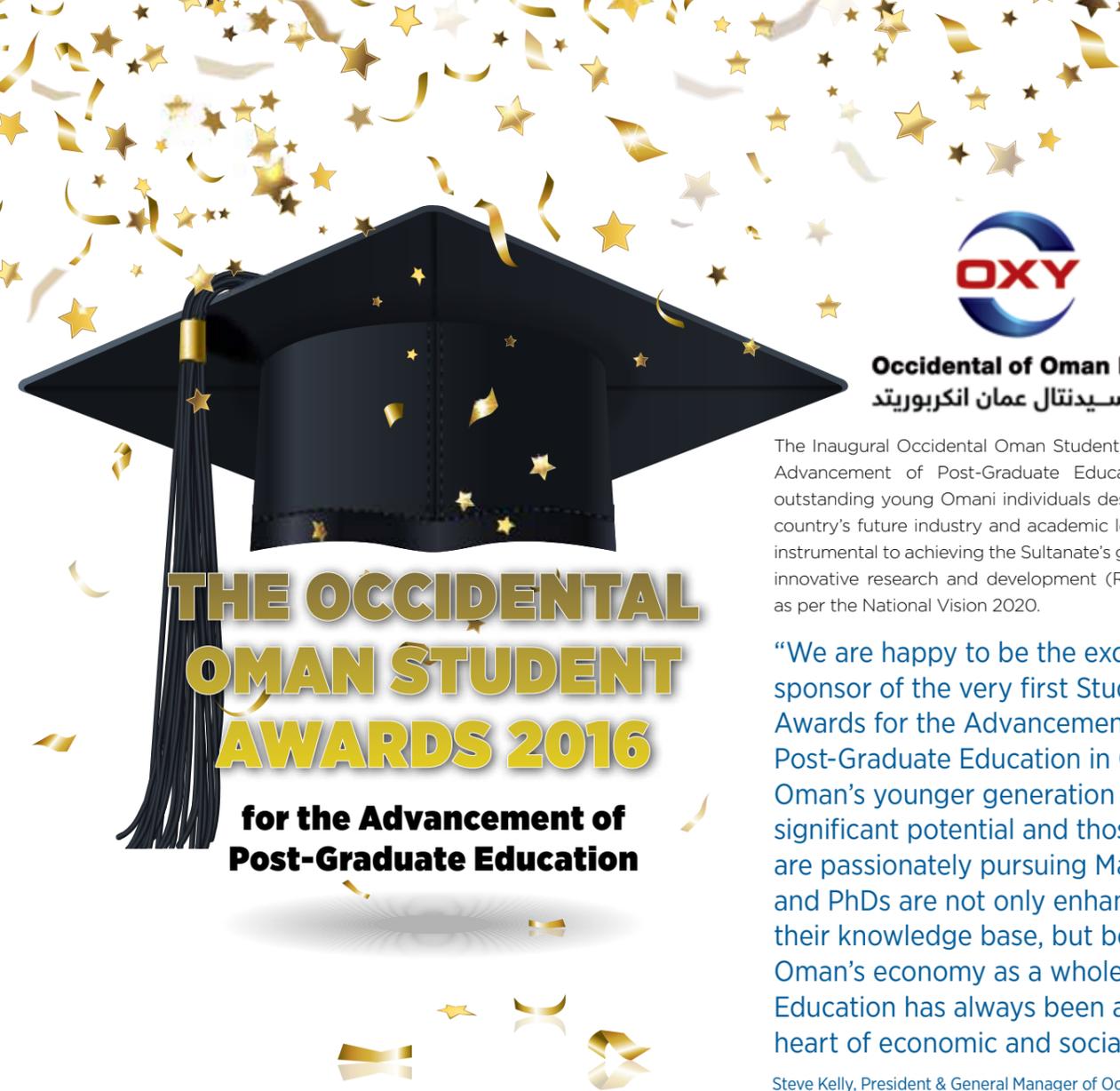
What are the top 3 Next Steps for Establishing a National Policy for R&D?

While today's R&D efforts in Oman are commendable, they tend to be fragmented and efforts are duplicated in different sectors. How many more cost-saving innovations could Muscat introduce to the local and international energy market if all areas of R&D were united under a national policy? A national policy for R&D would help organise and leverage the areas where Oman has the best human capital and infrastructure to make quicker progress, while also helping to identify areas that require improvement. A national policy would also streamline the use of crossover technologies in Oman's various R&D programmes as some solutions for the energy industry are already being used in transport, aerospace and even medicine and vice versa. For example, the Greenfield Kimray filter was developed from a pipeline filtration system is now used in heart patients. It makes more sense to use innovative technologies that have been developed within another sector in Oman than spend time and money trying to reinvent the wheel for the energy sector – time is money. A national policy for R&D could also help incentivize Academia and Industry to register patents locally, instead of in the US and Europe, which will help create an ecosystem that attracts investors.

Featured Speakers:

Host & Moderator: Dr. Saif Al-Hiddabi, Deputy Secretary General, The Research Council

- Hanan Askalan, CEO and Managing Director, AIDayeen Management and Technology Consulting
- Dr. Samira Omar Asem, Director General, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research



THE OCCIDENTAL OMAN STUDENT AWARDS 2016

for the Advancement of Post-Graduate Education



Occidental of Oman Inc.
أوكسيدنتال عمان انكروبريتد

The Inaugural Occidental Oman Student Awards for the Advancement of Post-Graduate Education recognize outstanding young Omani individuals destined to be the country's future industry and academic leaders, who are instrumental to achieving the Sultanate's goal to create an innovative research and development (R&D) ecosystem as per the National Vision 2020.

“We are happy to be the exclusive sponsor of the very first Student Awards for the Advancement of Post-Graduate Education in Oman. Oman's younger generation has significant potential and those who are passionately pursuing Masters and PhDs are not only enhancing their knowledge base, but benefitting Oman's economy as a whole, Education has always been at the heart of economic and social growth”

Steve Kelly, President & General Manager of Occidental of Oman

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

- Prof. Saif Al-Bahry, Director Oil & Gas Research Center, Sultan Qaboos University
- Dr. Michael Georg Modigell, Rector, German University of Technology in Oman
- Dr. Abdullah Al Abri, Technical Lead, Petroleum Development Oman
- Dr. Khalil Al Riyami, VP Exploration, Occidental Oman
- Dr. Rahma Al-Mahrooqi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Postgraduate Studies and Research, Sultan Qaboos University

CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES FOR THE PHD AWARD:

- Omani National, or Oman-based and Oman-educated for a period of 10 consecutive years.
- Near completion of PhD, or a recent PhD graduate in an energy-related field. Degree must have been completed within the past two years.
- Demonstrates potential to be a future thought leader in the energy industry in Oman.
- PhD dissertation should be relevant to Oman.
- Extra weight given to PHD studies that directly impact the advancement of local industry.
- Demonstrate the intention of working in Oman.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES FOR THE MASTERS AWARD:

- Omani National, or Oman-based and Oman-educated for a period of 10 consecutive years.
- Near completion of Masters, or a recent Masters graduate in an energy-related field. Degree must have been completed within the past two years.
- Demonstrates potential to be a future thought leader in the energy industry in Oman.
- Current, or planned involvement in energy-related research in Oman.
- Demonstrate the intention of working in Oman.
- Extra weight will be given to those with intent to pursue a PhD.
- Exemplary Undergraduate and Graduate grades.

AWARD WINNERS

PhD Award Winners

OMAR SAID AL-ABRI



Omar Al-Abri has a PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). Omar is also a member of the Applied Mechanics and Advanced Materials Research Group (AM2RG) at SQU, where he is actively involved in various funded research projects. His research interests include finite element modeling (FEM) and analysis, Mechanics of materials, Crystal plasticity, Texture analysis, materials characterization, and various aspects of Solid Expandable Tubular (SET) technology. Over the last five years, Omar has authored and co-authored 9 peer-reviewed journal papers and more than 12 refereed conference papers. His performance in academic and research activities has earned him a number of national, regional and international awards including the Star Academic Fellowship from the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE); a Gold Medal from the International Trade Fair: Ideas, Inventions, and New Products (iENA) in Germany; 1st prize (national), 1st prize (regional) and 2nd prize (international) in the International Students Paper Contest organized by SPE; and the National Research Award 2014 from The Research Council (TRC) for the best research led by young researcher (non-PhD holder) in Energy and Industry Sector.

LAMYA ADNAN AL-HAJ



A university lecturer with a PhD in Structural & Molecular Biology from University College London (UCL). Is young, an advocate and role model for STEM for women and all young people.
 - BSc (Hons) in Biotechnology and Chemistry (Sultan Qaboos University, Oman)
 - Master of Science & Technology in Environmental Science (University of New South Wales, Australia)
 - PhD Structural & Molecular Biology (University College London)
 Dr. Al-Haj received the prestigious award “Boban Marcovic Prize in Environmental Science” from University of New South Wales in 2006. In addition to her impressive academic background Lamya is a confident and eloquent speaker who frequently represents women of the Sultanate at both national and international meetings. She presented her research in many international conferences around the world including UK, Poland, France, Germany, Lebanon, UAE, China, Singapore, Canada and USA. Dr Al-Haj is very passionate about renewable, clean energy and has a vision of being the first Omani to research advanced biofuel production using genetically modified Microalgae as a substitute for fossil fuels.

Masters Award Winners

MOHAMMED SALIM AL-SHUAILI



Currently working as a mechanical engineer in Occidental Oman in Mukhaizna field. My master's degree is on ground and satellite weather data comparison for solar and renewable energy application in Sultan Qaboos University. I got my mechanical engineering degree from Sultan Qaboos University in 2010, worked as well engineer in PDO and moved to Oxy as Mechanical engineer. I have 6 years of working experience in Mukhaizna oil field. I worked as field project year handling field modification projects. I have experience in piping and pumps drawings and design, material procurement, construction works and documentation control. I like reading, specially novels and history books and I like to know the latest in engineering methods and inventions. I like fabricating and making stuff, I have a beautiful family with two daughters. I am also a practicing beekeeper.

MAHIR MANSOUR AL-WAHAIBI



Mahir Al-Wahaibi is a professional waste management engineer working with be'ah and has recently completed his postgraduate studies MSc (Eng.) Environmental Engineering and Projects Management from University of Leeds in United Kingdom. He has more than 9 years of cumulative working experiences in various environmental, petrochemicals as well as oil and gas sectors in Oman and overseas. He has been appointed to develop and execute the governmental strategic plan for setting up Transfer station facilities across the country and got the responsibility to execute the new state of the art 36 Municipal Waste Transfer station facilities in Oman. The practical experience as well as excellent know-how for recovering value from the resources enabled him to strengthen his knowledge in this field; thus, come up with brilliant ideas to support the national economy, conserving the environment as well as dealing with waste management challenges in Oman through converting two waste streams into alternate fuel to be used in energy intensive facilities like electricity generating power plants and cement factories.



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