



Oman Energy Association

Newsletter

April, 2025

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The editorial team reserves the right to adapt the texts to specify the coordinate format and improve the quality of the publication.

CEO Message



Dear Valued OPAL Members,

April has been a month of meaningful progress, fresh momentum, and renewed commitments across OPAL and the wider energy sector. I am pleased to share a snapshot of the activities and milestones that defined our collective journey this past month.

Board and Governance

The newly elected Board of the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its first official meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025, at OPAL Headquarters. During the meeting, the board approved the formation of the new Board of Directors for the upcoming term. Eng. Salman Al Maimani was appointed as Chairman, Hazzaa Al Habsi as Vice Chairman, and Eng. Suleiman Al Sulaimani as Treasurer. Board members also include Dr. Amer Al Rawas, Saif Al Darai, Ibrahim Al Bakri, and Dr. Sultan Al Owaisi. With their collective expertise and vision, I am confident we will drive OPAL's strategic direction with renewed momentum.

Programs and Capacity Building

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, OPAL, in collaboration with the PDO-Emdad team, Occidental Oman under the Es'ham program, Al Ghalbi International, Najed Al Ahliya, and Arabian Industries Projects LLC, organized the official induction of the "Planning Engineer" program. Funded by the Ministry of Labour, the initiative targets 16 Omani jobseekers with bachelor's degrees in mechanical and civil engineering. The program, delivered by International Information Technology Co. LLC (IITC) over 9 months, guarantees employment upon successful completion.

Also, on Sunday, April 13, 2025, OPAL launched the "Assistant Trainer" program, funded by the Ministry of Labour. This 12-month program, delivered by Technical and Administrative Training Institute LLC, supports 4 Omani jobseekers with degrees in engineering and HSE, leading to employment upon successful completion.

On Tuesday, April 22, 2025, OPAL signed an MoU with KBR and NTI to implement a comprehensive 18-month training program for graduates in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and health and safety, aimed at enhancing technical skills and job readiness.

On Monday, April 28, 2025, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Security and Safety Services Corporation, OPAL launched the "Security and Safety Guard TFE" program. Thirteen Omani diploma holders will undergo a 3.5-month course, delivered by the Security and Safety Training Institute, with employment guaranteed upon completion.

Strategic Collaborations

Mid-April, OPAL deepen its partnerships across the region. On April 9, we brought together the energy sector working group to breathe new life into our Mutual Aid Agreements—sharpening emergency-response protocols and resource-sharing frameworks.

April 10th, a senior OPAL delegation traveled to the Saudi Arabian Drilling Academy (SADA), where we formalized a Memorandum of Understanding to exchange expertise and training in drilling, workover, and well-intervention operations.

A few days later, on April 15, we hosted Eng. Dawood Al Hadabi the CEO of Madayn and his team at our headquarters to map out joint initiatives in workforce development, in-country value enhancement, and cross-sector knowledge transfer.

Workshops and Technical Excellence

A workshop on the Process Safety Management Guideline was organized by OPAL on Monday, April 14, 2025, in collaboration with OQ. The session brought together subject matter experts from operating companies to ensure the guideline's relevance and effectiveness, aiming to enhance process safety management across the industry.

On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, OPAL hosted a workshop for certified defensive driving training managers to review recent developments in collaborative efforts, performance improvement mechanisms, and strategic plans to enhance training standards.

Worker Welfare & Wellbeing

Worker welfare continues to be a top priority for OPAL. On Monday, April 21, 2025, OPAL, in collaboration with OQ Gas Network and bp Oman, held the OPAL Knowledge Exchange Forum under the theme "Worker Welfare & Wellbeing." The forum, which took place under the patronage of H.E. Khalid bin Salim Al Ghamhari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour, aimed to address key challenges in the sector, share best practices, and promote initiatives to improve worker welfare across the energy industry.

As we reflect on the month of April and the progress we've made, I am filled with optimism. We have seen tremendous strides in leadership, collaboration, and workforce development, all of which position us to thrive in the coming months.

Warm regards,
Eng. Mohammed Al Naabi
Chief Executive Officer
Oman Energy Association (OPAL)



Monday, April 7, 2025 - the newly elected Board of Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its first meeting at OPAL's headquarters. During the meeting, the board approved the formation of the new Board of Directors for the upcoming term. Eng. Salman Al Maimani was appointed as Chairman, Hazzaa Al Habsi as Vice Chairman, and Eng. Suleiman Al Sulaimani as Treasurer. The board members also include Dr. Amer Al Rawas, Saif Al Darai, Ibrahim Al Bakri, and Dr. Sultan Al Owaisi.



Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its first meeting with the working group to review the Mutual Aid Agreements among the organizations in the energy sector. The discussion focused on reviewing the clauses of the agreements and activating their provisions to strengthen coordination and cooperation among the organizations in the sector.



Thursday, 10th April 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) visited the Saudi Arabian Drilling Academy (SADA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and held an executive management meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest. During the visit, both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities for collaboration in knowledge exchange and training for drilling, workover, and well intervention crews.



Sunday, 13 April 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with PDO-Emdad team, Occidental Oman under Es'ham program, Al Ghalbi International, Najed Al Ahliya and Arabian Industries Projects LLC organized the official induction of "Planning Engineer program", funded by Ministry of Labor. The program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 16 Omani job seekers with bachelor's degree in mechanical and civil engineering. The program will be delivered by International Information Technology CO.LLC (IITC) for period of 9 Month. The trainees will be employed directly after successfully completing the requirement of the program.



Sunday, 13 April 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), organized the official induction of "Assistant Trainer", funded by Ministry of Labor. The program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 4 Omani job seekers with bachelor's degree in engineering and HSE. The program will be delivered by Technical and Administrative Training Institute LLC for period of 12 Month. The trainees will be employed directly after successfully completing the requirement of the program.



Sunday, April 13, 2025, In collaboration with Fleet Management Systems & Technologies (GLOBAL), the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in Traffic Week, organized by the Royal Oman Police. aims to raise awareness about the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations among road users, in order to reduce the risk of accidents.



Monday, 14th April 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with OQ, organized a workshop to review the Process Safety Management Guideline, engaging subject matter experts from operating companies. The session focused on reviewing the guideline to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, and applicability in line with the sector's requirements, with the goal of enhancing process safety management within the industry.



Wednesday, 16 April 2025, Oman Energy Association(OPAL) organized a workshop that brought together certified defensive driving training managers. The workshop aimed to discuss recent developments in collaborative efforts, explore mechanisms for performance improvement, and review strategic plans to ensure the highest standards of quality and efficiency in defensive driving.



Tuesday, April 22, 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KBR, in collaboration with the National Training Institute (NTI), to implement technical training programs tailored for graduates in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and health and safety. The program will be delivered by the National Training Institute over a period of 18 months, aiming to equip Omani trainees with specialized technical skills that enhance their professional development, strengthen their technical expertise, and support their readiness to enter the job market with confidence and competence.



Tuesday, 15th April, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) was pleased to welcome the CEO of Madayn and his team to discuss collaboration on maximizing In-Country Value (ICV) opportunities, enhancing workforce development, and sharing knowledge and experience across various areas.



Monday, April 21, 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with OQ Gas Network and bp Oman, organized the OPAL Knowledge Exchange Forum titled "Worker Welfare & Wellbeing". The forum was held under the patronage of H.E. Khalid bin Salim Al Ghamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour. It brought together industry stakeholders to discuss and address key challenges, share best practices, and promote initiatives aimed at enhancing worker welfare and wellbeing across the energy sector.



Thursday, April 24, 2025 - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the 16th edition of the Senior Leaders Safety Forum, in collaboration with ENI Oman. The forum was chaired by H.E. Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Afi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, with the participation of Chief Executive Officers from leading companies operating within the energy sector. The forum focused on sharing best practices in the implementation of digitalization and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for proactive Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) management, encouraging forward-looking dialogue to shape the future of safety across the energy sector.



Monday, 28 April 2025, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Ministry of Labour and Security and Safety Services Corporation, organized the official induction of "Security and Safety Guard TFE program" funded by the Ministry of labor. the program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 13 Omani job seekers with general Diploma. the program will be delivered by Security and safety Training Institute for a period of 3 months and 2 weeks. The trainees will be employed directly after successfully completing the requirement of the program.

The Journey to Excellence: Elevating Worker Welfare Across Oman's Energy Sector

As part of OPAL's commitment to driving excellence in HSE, worker welfare, and occupational wellbeing, April 2025 marked a significant achievement in our journey—placing worker wellbeing at the center of industry dialogue.

While the Worker Welfare & Wellbeing Forum 2025 may have appeared to be a seamless half-day event to attendees, the effort to bring it to life began months in advance. Held under the auspices of H.E. Khalid Al Gammari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour, the forum was the result of strategic collaboration between OPAL, our member companies, and dedicated sponsors—**OQ Gas Networks (OQGN)** and **bp Oman**.

The forum aimed to highlight the critical importance of worker welfare and wellbeing—particularly for those working in remote and challenging concession areas.

This event built on a foundational milestone achieved in 2024, when OPAL developed and published the Energy Sector Worker Welfare Standard in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and operating companies in the energy sector. The standard laid the groundwork for industry-wide alignment, marking a pivotal starting point in this long-term journey.

Creating a Safe Space for Honest Dialogue

The event featured impactful addresses from **Mohammed Al Naabi**, CEO (OPAL), and **Mansoor Al Abdali**, CEO (OQGN), both urging the industry to maintain momentum on welfare initiatives while pushing boundaries for even greater worker protection and support.

One of the key highlights of the forum was the Leadership Panel on "Driving Worker Welfare & Wellbeing Excellence in the Energy Sector", moderated by **Humaid Al Bulushi**, GM HSE and Standardization (OPAL), the session featured a panel of esteemed industry leaders:

- **Kim Code**, Executive Director Assets (PDO)
- **Alya Al Maimani**, VP Operations (Oxy Oman)

The panel explored critical challenges such as **mental health**, **emotional resilience**, isolation, extreme working conditions, and **the clear link between wellbeing and workplace safety**. Panelists shared best practices and innovative approaches designed to uphold workers' dignity, safety, and emotional wellbeing—extending these efforts equally to contractor and subcontractor workforces.



Additionally, four outstanding technical presentations enriched the event:

- **Said Al Harthy (OPAL)**: Energy Sector Worker Welfare Standard
- **Dr. Ahmed Al Abri (PDO)**: PDO Worker Welfare Program
- **Hamed Al Ajmi (bp Oman)**: bp Oman's Worker Welfare and Mental Health Initiatives
- **Noura Al Sawwafi (SDO)**: Oman Shell's Worker Welfare Journey

A second dynamic Experts Panel on "Implementing Effective Worker Welfare & Wellbeing Strategies" was moderated by **Nabras Al Riyami**, P&C Manager (OPAL), featuring distinguished industry experts:

- **Moosa Al Habsi (Oman LNG)**
- **Dr. Ali Al Lawati (OQEP)**
- **Sultan Al Naabi (Daleel Petroleum)**
- **Mahmood Al Busaidi (Oxy Oman)**
- **Berdan Macahindog (OQGN)**

The forum concluded with valuable reflections and commitments from the Energy Sector HSE Managers Committee, including:

- **Hassan Al Ajmi (Oxy Oman)**
- **Moosa Al Habsi (Oman LNG)**
- **Nabil Al Afifi (bp Oman)**
- **Khalid Al Wahaibi (OQGN)**

A closing message from **Humaid Al Bulushi (OPAL)** stressed the sector's shared responsibility to uphold and enhance worker welfare, ensuring Oman's energy industry becomes a global benchmark in worker welfare and wellbeing leadership.

Looking Ahead

This forum was more than just an event—it marked a pivotal step in an ongoing journey where worker welfare and wellbeing are not standalone initiatives, but foundational principles shaping the future of Oman's energy sector. OPAL is committed to sustaining this momentum, accelerating progress, and continuing to lead with conviction, compassion, and accountability.

The 9 Core Principals of Worker Welfare

Equal & Respectful Treatment

Grievance and Redress

Worker Representation is Respected

Ethical Hiring / Recruitment

Worker's Health and Safety

Living Conditions

Documentation Access

Wage and Benefit Agreements

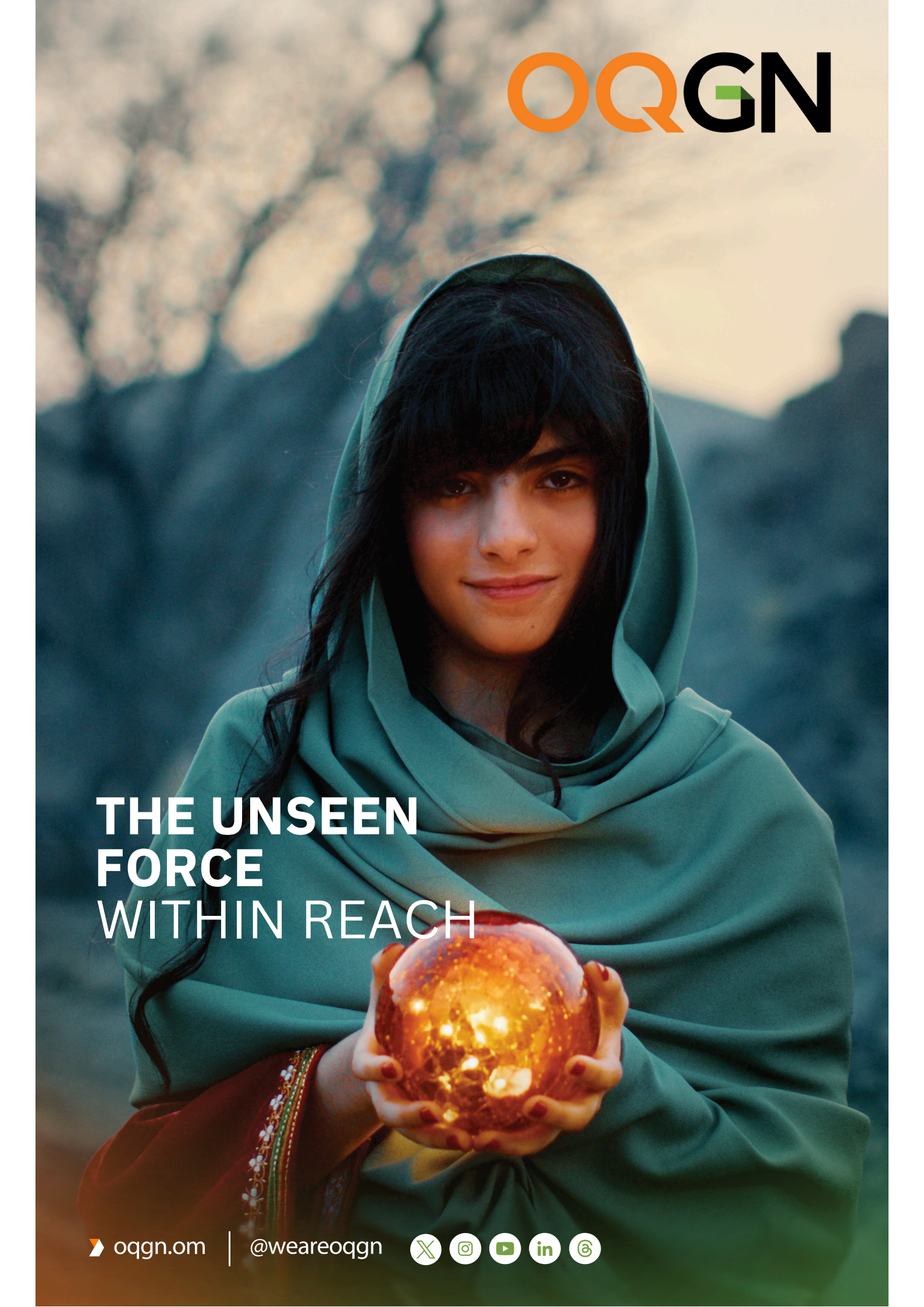
Labour Freedom

Written by

Humaid Al Bulushi

GM HSE and Standardization

Oman Energy Association (OPAL)

A woman with dark hair, wearing a green hooded cloak, holds a glowing orange crystal ball in her hands. The background is a soft-focus sunset with silhouettes of trees and mountains. The overall mood is mystical and serene.

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The Impact of OPAL on Skills Development, Assistance, and



Oman's energy sector is rapidly transforming due to technology, sustainability goals, and new regulations. To meet these changes, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) is leading efforts in workforce development through training, support, and accreditation. Central to this is the National Occupational Standards (NOS), which define the skills and knowledge needed for key roles. Developed with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, NOS ensures training aligns with industry needs and prepares workers for current and future challenges.

OPAL's Role in Skill Development and Accreditation

OPAL has made a profound impact on the skills ecosystem by not only providing training and development programs but also ensuring that they are aligned with the NOS. Through collaboration with government entities, training providers, and industry experts, OPAL has facilitated various initiatives that aim to upskill the workforce and enhance their employability.

1. **Training and Certification:** OPAL works closely with accredited training providers to offer courses that align with the NOS. These certifications act as benchmarks for assessing competencies in various job roles across the energy sector, ranging from technical operations to management and leadership. By ensuring that training is relevant and standardized, OPAL helps workers acquire the right set of skills needed to thrive in a competitive energy market.
2. **Accreditation for Training Providers:** OPAL's accreditation of training providers ensures that institutions delivering energy-sector courses meet the rigorous standards set by the NOS. This gives employers confidence that the training their employees receive will adequately prepare them for their roles.
3. **Human Capital Development Programs:** OPAL's programs have become a lifeline for both individuals and organizations. They help workers enhance their skills, improve their professional credentials, and, ultimately, increase their career progression opportunities. For employers, these programs create a pipeline of qualified professionals who are ready to meet the industry's current and future needs.

The NOS certification streamlines recruitment by highlighting candidates with verified skills, reducing the need for extensive training and saving employers time and effort.

The Role of National Occupational Standards (NOS) in Shaping the Skills Ecosystem

The National Occupational Standards (NOS) serve as the foundation for many of OPAL's programs and initiatives, and they have brought tremendous benefits to the energy sector in Oman. Here's how NOS contributes to the skills ecosystem:

1. **Standardized Skills Framework:** NOS provides a standardized approach to skill assessment, ensuring that every individual working in the energy sector possesses the required competencies for their specific role. This minimizes skill gaps and enhances the overall quality of the workforce.
2. **Improved Workforce Competence:** With the NOS in place, employers can trust that employees with NOS certifications have the right mix of technical knowledge, practical skills, and soft skills required to perform their roles efficiently and safely. This also reduces the need for employers to invest in expensive on-the-job training or remediation.
3. **Continuous Skills Development:** NOS is not a static standard. It evolves in response to industry trends, technological advancements, and regulatory changes. This ensures that the workforce remains adaptable and is continuously updated with the latest skills and knowledge required to stay relevant in the ever-changing energy sector.

The NOS framework has significantly improved training quality in Oman, guiding institutions in developing programs that meet international standards. Training is now aligned with the ILO's ISCO, ensuring global relevance for the energy sector.

Upcoming Skills Assessments: Strengthening Workforce Competency

Following the launch of 12 Skill Certification Assessments in Lifting Operations and HSE Advisor, OPAL is set to roll out a new wave of Skills Certification Assessments starting in April 2025. These assessments will serve as an essential tool to validate the competencies of workers across various roles in the energy sector. Designed in alignment with NOS, they will help measure both technical proficiency and practical application of skills in real-world scenarios.

Key highlights of the upcoming skills assessments include:

- **Industry-Aligned Evaluation:** The assessments will be tailored to reflect the latest industry requirements, ensuring that workers are tested on skills that are directly applicable to their job functions.
- **Targeted Job Roles:** Initial assessments will focus on high-demand roles, with plans to expand to a broader range of occupations in subsequent phases.
- **Practical and Theoretical Components:** The evaluation process will incorporate both hands-on practical assessments and theoretical knowledge tests to provide a well-rounded measure of worker capability.
- **Recognition and Certification:** Workers who successfully complete the assessments will receive official certification, further enhancing their employability and career growth prospects.
- **Support for Employers and Training Providers:** The results of these assessments will offer valuable insights to employers, helping them identify skill gaps and tailor workforce development programs accordingly. Training providers will also benefit by refining their course offerings to better align with real-world needs.

OPAL's assessments enhance workforce readiness and uphold industry standards, ensuring Oman's energy sector remains competitive and future-ready. Programs like the HSE Practitioners Apprenticeship, aligned with NOS, have improved job placements and career growth. OPAL's commitment to skills development and certification, in collaboration with employers and training providers, ensures a skilled, globally competitive workforce that drives innovation and sustainability in Oman's energy sector.

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AL-GHALBI INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING LLC



Who We are:

Al-Ghalbi International Engineering & Contracting was founded in 1998, by national capacities with extensive management experience that works with a vision to enhance the company's role innational development, the company has more than 780 employees, Omanization reached 46% in the company, and national cadres occupy leadership positions in the administrative, professional, technical, financial and service departments of the company.

The company accomplished many projects during its path in the field of laying and maintaining oil and gas pipelines in various fields and concession areas in the Sultanate of Oman, as well it obtained certificates of excellence in performance, and certificates for doing business without time-consuming from its major strategic clients, such as Oman Petroleum Development Company (PDO), Occidental Oman(OXY), OQ, Daleel Petroleum, ARA Petroleum, and CCED .



Vision:

Pioneer and First Choice in providing best services and solutions to all Oil & Gas Industry Requirements.



Mission:

To be the pioneer company in providing best services and solutions to off plot projects, delivery & Flow pipe line integrity and maintenance.

Location Map

Major operational Areas



Accreditations / Certificates / Memberships

- ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS)
- ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS)
- OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management System
- OPAL Membership
- OPAL Compliance Verification Certificate (CVC)
- OPAL Health Safety & Environment Management System (HSEMS)
- Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS).



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Oman signs deal for world's first liquid hydrogen corridor to Europe



As part of the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Netherlands, Oman signed a historic Joint Development Agreement (JDA) to establish the world's first commercial-scale liquid hydrogen corridor linking Oman to the Netherlands and Germany. The agreement marks a critical point in the global energy transition journey and brings Oman one step closer to becoming the leading hub for green hydrogen production and export.

The corridor will enable the export of RFNBO-compliant liquid hydrogen from Oman's Port of Duqm to the Port of Amsterdam and key logistics hubs in Germany, including the Port of Duisburg, and onward to other European countries.

At the heart of this corridor is the world's largest hydrogen liquefaction, storage, and export terminal to be established in the Port of Duqm. Hydrom, as the orchestrator of Oman's green hydrogen sector, will ensure upstream production is aligned with national plans and that the project integrates seamlessly into Oman's broader hydrogen infrastructure and policy framework.

OQ, Oman's energy transition enabler, leading the liquefaction infrastructure, will develop the hydrogen plant along with related storage and export facilities, contributing directly to the corridor's supply capabilities and Oman's national hydrogen targets.

The centralised liquefaction plant will be supported by revolutionary maritime transportation vessels developed by ECOLOG to ship liquid hydrogen with zero boil-off, ensuring greater efficiency and reduced losses. On the European side, the corridor will be anchored by re-gasification import terminals in the Port of Amsterdam from which the hydrogen will be distributed to industrial offtakers in the Netherlands and Germany via gas pipeline networks, rail connections, and barge distribution through the Dutch canal network.

"Today's landmark signing demonstrates how Oman is turning its hydrogen ambitions into concrete projects aligned with global demand and national priorities," said H E Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Chairman of Hydrom. "While this corridor will enable the large-scale export of Omani hydrogen to Europe, its true value lies in how it supports our broader vision of an integrated sector that advances our national objectives. From industrial diversification and infrastructure development to job creation and capacity building, we are committed to building a future-ready sector that will position Oman at the center of green hydrogen global supply chain and deliver tangible economic value for the country."

"This agreement represents a landmark moment in our commitment to clean energy," stated Sophie Hermans, the Dutch Minister for Climate and Green Growth. "By linking Omani green hydrogen with Europe's energy needs, we are advancing our shared climate goals and establishing a sustainable energy future."

The agreement was signed by eleven public and private sector entities from Oman, The Netherlands, and Germany represented by Hydrom and OQ alongside the Port of Amsterdam, Port of Duisburg, ECOLOG, EnBW, Tata Steel, Advanced Methanol Amsterdam (AMA), Hynetwork Services (HNS), and the Port of Duqm Company (PODC).

The signing follows three feasibility studies jointly commissioned by Hydrom and partners in 2024 and delivers on the ambitions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on green energy co-operation signed between Oman and the Netherlands at COP27.

Oman's green hydrogen sector, led by Hydrom, is fast becoming one of the world's most structured and investment-ready ecosystems. To date, large-scale green hydrogen projects have been awarded to consortiums from 22 global companies all of which have commenced development activities within their blocks in Duqm and Dhofar. Hydrom is also preparing to launch its third land auction round later this month, focused on mid-scale projects and aimed at aligning upstream production with downstream industries, further reinforcing Oman's strategy to become a competitive and integrated global hydrogen hub.

Reference: Oman Observer

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Oman Sustainability Week

11 - 15 MAY 2025

SULTANATE OF OMAN

IN ALIGNMENT WITH



رؤية عُمان 2040

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شركة تنمية نفط عُمان
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HOST MINISTRY



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- OPAL Defensive Driving Training
- OPAL NPORS / RTITB Lifting Operations Training
- Automotive Training
- Engineering Training
- HGV Driving & Plant Equipment Operator Training
- NSL Lifting Equipment Inspector Training
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S&P hails Oman's fiscal discipline, affirms investment-grade rating

5 APR 2025



S&P Global Ratings last week affirmed Oman's investment-grade credit rating at BBB-with a stable outlook. The agency attributed the rating to the continued improvement in the sultanate's public finance performance and growing expenditure-side flexibility, along with ongoing government efforts to reduce public debt and enhance the governance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

S&P noted that over the past four years, the Omani government has strengthened its balance sheet by paying down debt and restructuring SOEs. As a result, gross government debt has declined to 36% of GDP in 2024, down from 62% in 2021.

The ratings agency expects the Omani government to continue its deleveraging efforts and further reduce sovereign debt levels. It forecasts Oman's budget surplus will average just under 1.5% of GDP between 2025 and 2028, compared to 2.2% in 2024. This largely reflects S&P's Brent oil assumption of \$70 per barrel over the next couple of years, relative to \$81 in 2024, coupled with a moderate increase in production, as government revenue remains concentrated in oil and gas receipts (at about 72% of total revenue).

However, S&P cautioned that Oman's fiscal position still remains dependent on oil market developments, although expenditure-side flexibility is increasing. The agency expects oil production to remain flat in 2025, before rising by 2%–3% annually as OPEC+ quotas are eased.

According to S&P, its stable outlook on Oman reflects a balance between the potential benefits of the government's fiscal and economic reform agenda and the economy's structural vulnerability to adverse oil price shocks.

The agency said it could upgrade Oman's ratings within the next two years if reforms lead to sustained growth in GDP per capita, supported by continued momentum in non-oil economic activity.

'Measures to strengthen institutions – such as those supporting economic diversification and the development of domestic capital markets – could be credit positive,' it added.

Conversely, S&P could lower the ratings if the pace of fiscal and economic reforms slows, or if an unfavourable external environment, such as a terms-of-trade shock, leads to fiscal deficits and debt levels significantly exceeding current projections.

S&P noted that continued fiscal discipline, combined with efforts to diversify and modernise Oman's economic structure, underpins the country's credit profile.

'In our view, Oman's government will continue to enact key legislation and work to gradually reduce its role in the economy – from owner to regulator – through asset sales aimed at developing the non-hydrocarbon private sector and attracting foreign direct investment,' the agency said.

S&P projects Oman will post current account surpluses of 1.3% of GDP on average during the period between 2025–2028. It said, 'The sultanate has historically mitigated sizable deficits on its transfer, income, and services balances through surpluses on its trade balance. However, volatility in terms-of-trade remains high (because oil constitutes 60% of total exports), with Oman having posted current account deficits of up to 17% of GDP during periods of low oil prices.'

As per S&P's estimates, Oman's gross foreign exchange reserves stabilised at about \$18bn as of year-end 2024, owing to lower government foreign currency debt issuance and external debt repayments. The agency's base-case scenario assumes reserves will remain near this level over our forecast horizon to 2028.

Oman LNG to fund landmark study on wave energy potential



Oman LNG, the operator of the Sultanate's triple-train liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant at Sur, is funding a key study that aims to assess the feasibility of harnessing wave energy as a source of renewable power along the country's coast. Titled, 'The Potential of Wave Energy in Sur: Resources Assessment and Techno- Economic Feasibility', the study will be conducted by the Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC) at Sultan Qaboos University, according to Nasser al Rizeigi, Decarbonisation Adviser - Oman LNG.

In a social media post over the weekend, Al Rizeiqi underlined the promising potential of wave energy, given especially the expansive length of Oman's coastline abutting multiple seas and marine environments. "Oman, with its extensive coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Sea of Oman, holds significant potential for harnessing wave energy. This renewable energy source offers a promising alternative to traditional fossil fuels, contributing to the global effort to mitigate GHG emissions," he stated.

Significantly, Oman LNG's decision to fund the study comes in the wake of provisional findings by SEC underscoring the wave energy potential of Oman's coastal waters. Further investigations would be necessary to identify optimal hotspots for the deployment of Wave Energy Converters (WECs). Initial studies have already pointed to sites in Barka, Qurayyat, Muscat, Qurum, Al-Bustan, and Al-Sifah as being ideal for WEC deployment based on their energy production intensity. "The scope of this strategic study is designed to cover a larger area of the Sea of Oman with the goal to evaluate the techno-economic feasibility of wave energy," Oman LNG's Decarbonization Adviser noted.

"It aims to systematically assess the feasibility of wave energy at the coast of Oman by investigating different locations along the coast, particularly the Sur coastline. In particular, the objective is to conduct a detailed analysis of wave data to determine energy generation capabilities and ensure a consistent wave energy supply." Also participating in the study are Dr Saleh Al Saadi, Head of the Sustainable Energy Research Centre (SERC), and members of Oman LNG's ICV and Technology Departments.

The initiative is an integral part of a broader effort by Oman LNG to reduce its carbon footprint in part by mitigating its carbon emissions while also exploring clean energy alternatives to fossil fuels.

Reference: Oman Observer

Duqm to host region's first major wind turbine manufacturing facility



A specialised factory for the manufacturing of wind turbines is set to be established in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), marking a significant step in advancing Oman's renewable energy ambitions. The facility is expected to play a key role in supporting the sultanate's future clean energy projects by supplying locally manufactured turbines for wind farms across the country.

Mawarid Turbine Company on Sunday celebrated the launch of the first phase of the facility, which will have an annual production capacity of up to 1,000 megawatts (MW). The investment for the first phase is expected to exceed \$200mn, according to a report by the Oman News Agency.

The plant is scheduled to begin commercial operations in 2026, becoming the region's first hub for wind turbine manufacturing and contributing to the localisation of renewable energy technology. It is expected to create approximately 1,080 job opportunities.

H E Eng Salim bin Nasser al Afi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, who presided over the inauguration ceremony, said the factory would play a key role in supporting Oman's wind energy development, with an annual capacity of 1,000 MW. "This will support many ambitious projects planned for implementation over the next two years. We hope the first phase of the factory will begin production by the end of next year," he said.

H E Afi added that the main aim of establishing the factory is to supply wind power plants, with production beginning in mid-2026. "It will also supply materials for wind energy projects currently under construction, while creating employment opportunities for job seekers. The project reflects Oman's commitment to transitioning to renewable and clean energy." Mustafa bin Mohammed al Hinai, CEO of Mawarid Turbine Company, said that the launch of the project represents a significant milestone – the first of its kind in the region – in the field of wind turbine manufacturing and the localisation of integrated renewable energy technologies. The project is confidently moving towards building strategic partnerships based on industrial integration, technological innovation, and knowledge transfer.

The launch of the first phase will help reduce costs and logistical expenses, while providing high-efficiency products to both local and international markets.

It will also open broad prospects for exporting Omani expertise and products, create numerous direct and indirect job opportunities, enhance local content, and increase value addition," he said.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the signing of several agreements and memoranda of cooperation.

"The first and second agreements – between Mawarid Turbine and Shanghai Electric Wind Power Group – cover technology licensing, a research centre, knowledge transfer, preliminary and technical design of manufacturing systems, and the supply of wind turbines for several pilot wind farms. The agreements were signed by Mustafa bin Mohammed al Hinai, CEO of Mawarid Turbine, and Wang Yong, President of Shanghai Electric Wind Power Group.

Wu Lei, the Chairman of Shanghai Electric Group, who witnessed the signing ceremony, said that this strategic partnership reflects the strong cooperative relationship between Oman and China, underpinned by longstanding historical ties. He emphasised that the project would support the transfer of advanced technologies and attract high-quality investments to Oman, while also contributing to the country's sustainable energy transformation, energy security, and the development of a knowledge- and innovation-based economy.

A third agreement was signed between Mawarid Turbine and CID (Gulf) for the detailed design of the Mawarid Turbine factory for manufacturing wind turbine components in Duqm. It was signed by Hinai and Tariq bin Najib al Khonji, CEO of CID (Gulf).

Additionally, Mawarid Turbine and OQ Group signed a MoU to establish a wind turbine manufacturing plant in Duqm. The MoU was signed by Hinai and Ashraf bin Hamad al Maamari, CEO of OQ Group.

In a separate development, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Labour, the Public Services Regulatory Authority, and Mawarid Turbine Company to train and qualify the first batch of 350 national job seekers, equipping them with the skills required to occupy technical and specialised positions in the renewable energy manufacturing sector.

Reference: Muscat Daily



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Successful Blood Donation Drive Organized by Arabian Industries Projects - Saves Lives



Arabian Industries Projects proudly announces the successful completion of its recent Blood Donation Drive, held on Monday 05 -05-2025 at Arabian Industries Projects premises, where more than 85 units of blood were collected thanks to the overwhelming support of volunteers and donors from the employees and our partners from the institutions and subcontractor's community. The event saw active participation from donors who came forward to contribute to this life-saving cause, making the impact of the drive truly significant. "We are grateful for the incredible response," said [Eng. Sulaiman Al Suleimani]. "This effort reflects the empathy and unity of all employees. Every donor played a role in saving lives. Medical teams ensured all health and safety protocols were followed during the drive. Arabian Industries Projects extends heartfelt thanks to all donors, volunteers, and partners who made this initiative a success and encourages continued support in future health campaigns.

OQ8 completes RT, unlocking \$4 billion in shareholder guarantees



Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company (OQ8), a joint venture between OQ (Oman) and Kuwait Petroleum International, has successfully completed the Lenders Reliability Test (LRT), marking a key milestone with the confirmation of its Actual Completion Date (ACD). This achievement fulfills all lender conditions, unlocking approximately RO 1.54 billion (\\$4 billion) in financing and enabling the transition to full commercial operations. The LRT confirmed the refinery's ability to operate above its nameplate capacity with consistent efficiency and reliability. Located in Al Wusta, the facility has exceeded 110% of its 230,000 bpd design capacity, reaching 255,000 bpd. OQ8 operated at full utilization throughout 2024, exporting over 4.1 million tonnes of refined products. Company leaders highlighted the milestone's significance for Oman Vision 2040, regional energy leadership, and global market competitiveness. Designed to process diverse crude types, Duqm Refinery also advances sustainability and local development, with over \\$2 billion spent on local suppliers and RO 2 million (\\$5.4 million) allocated to social programs since 2018.

Reference: Oman Observer

Oman plans 300 - 400km hydrogen pipeline by 2030



OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), the sole owner and operator of Oman's national gas transportation network, says it anticipates the development of hydrogen pipelines ranging in length from 300 - 400 kilometres by 2030, in conjunction with the growth of the country's green hydrogen industry. Funding approval for this initiative, conceived in line with its mandate as the National Infrastructure Provider for the hydrogen transportation network, is expected in 2027, the publicly traded, majority state-owned company said in its newly published 2024 Annual Report.

OQGN will follow a phased approach, beginning with regional pipelines, which can later be expanded into a nationwide hydrogen network. By 2030, the Company expects 300- 400 km of hydrogen pipelines to be built, with the final investment decision (FID) expected by 2027," OQGN - part of OQ Group - stated.

The "regional lines" in question are a reference to OQGN's role in rolling out hydrogen pipelines as part of an end-to-end, integrated common use infrastructure (CUI) encompassing dedicated networks for electricity supply, ultrapure water and other utilities. This infrastructure will be made available for use by the eight consortiums currently in the early stages of developing their green hydrogen projects in dedicated blocks in Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates. OQGN says it plans to leverage its expertise in the operation of the country's 4,235 km gas transportation network in rolling out the new hydrogen network. To this end, it is working with Hydrom Oman (Hydrom) - the architect of Oman's green hydrogen industry - on the technical aspects of the proposed hydrogen pipeline system for the country. "OQGN is collaborating with Hydrom, which orchestrates implementing the green hydrogen strategy, bringing together producers, end-users, and infrastructure providers. While Hydrom facilitates discussions and attracts foreign direct investment (FDI), OQGN is responsible for the technical and operational development of the pipeline infrastructure," the company noted. Last year, in line with its remit as the National Infrastructure Provider for the hydrogen transportation network, OQGN signed a MoU with the consortium developing the Salalah2 green hydrogen project in Salalah. The multinational consortium, comprising OQ Alternative Energy, Marubeni Corporation, UAE-based Dutco Group and Samsung C&T of South Korea, is targeting the production of 1 million tpa of green ammonia and 175,000 tpa of green hydrogen. Also in 2024, OQGN conducted a strategy study to evaluate the complexities of developing hydrogen infrastructure and its commercialization, it noted in its Annual Report.

Furthermore, in parallel with its hydrogen pipeline strategy, OQGN is master planning the development of a carbon dioxide (CO₂) transportation network infrastructure to link CO₂ emission sources with storage and utilization sites. "Some CO₂ will be stored underground for carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects, while other volumes will be used as feedstock in industries such as fertilizer production, desalination, and enhanced oil recovery in upstream oil and gas operations," it said.

Envisioned for implementation on the CO₂ front is a project with energy major Shell focusing on the development of underground CO₂ storage. Separately, OQGN is collaborating with Oxy Oman in the development of a CO₂ network to support the latter's enhanced oil recovery operations.

Additionally, the company is "collaborating with Shell, OQ, and PDO on Blue Horizons' low-carbon and ammonia project, which is currently in the pre-FEED (front-end engineering design) stage, to explore commercial models and ensure shareholder value". Further into 2025, OQGN plans to initiate developmental work on a regulatory and commercial framework for hydrogen and CO₂ transportation. Additionally, the company plans to advance technical studies for hydrogen and CO₂ projects, ensuring readiness for the final investment decision in 2027.

Renewables-based Energy Gateway proposed for Oman's Masirah Island



MUSCAT: A pair of leading Dutch firms has unveiled a proposal for meeting the energy requirements of Masirah, the biggest island off Oman's east coast, with a mix of renewables-based energy resources.

Dutch engineering and consultancy firm Witteveen+Bos, together with Van Oord, a leading global maritime contractor headquartered in the Netherlands, are behind an initiative, dubbed 'Masirah Energy Gateway' that envisages the supply of green electricity harnessed from tidal, wind and solar energy.

An overview of this globally unique initiative was presented during the CEO Business Roundtable held as part of the State Visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Netherlands last week.

Witteveen+Bos Managing Director Wouter Bijman described the proposed project as an 'energy bridge' spanning the 20km distance between Masirah Island and the Omani mainland.

"Every year, 2200 Gigawatt-hours of sustainable energy will be generated with a combination of tidal, wind and solar energy. This globally unique megaproject fits in seamlessly with the sustainability Vision Oman 2040; the electricity generated can also serve as an energy source in the production of green hydrogen," Witteveen+Bos stated in a post.

Representatives of Witteveen+Bos were recently in Muscat as part of a contingent of Dutch firms participating in the just-concluded Oman Water Week 2025 forum. The consultancy firm is among a number of Dutch businesses currently engaged in strengthening Oman's water sector as part of the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) initiative.

At a state dinner held in honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham's recent visit to the Netherlands, both countries highlighted their strategic partnership spanning a number of key areas, including green hydrogen and advanced water solutions. A joint communique issued at the conclusion of the visit also underlined the importance of cooperation in water technology, climate adaptation, and resilient infrastructure - areas that also represent the core strengths of Dutch technological expertise.

Significantly, Witteveen+Bos is also a member of the Oman Netherlands Strategic Taskforce which is overseeing the implementation of the Oman Netherlands Water Roadmap, which seeks to identify joint priorities for the next two years. Implementation is being done in close coordination with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Muscat, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Nama Water Services Group.

The proposed Masirah Energy Gateway, if and when approved for implementation, will complement a newly launched initiative by the Omani government to extend the country's main electricity grid to Masirah Island via the installation of a first-ever undersea cable.

National grid operator Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OTC) is overseeing the implementation of the RO 72 million interconnection project, which aims to supplant diesel-powered electricity currently supplying the island, with gas-powered, and potentially even renewables powered, electricity from the mainland.

Reference: Muscat Daily

OQAE to get 25% stake in future renewable projects in Oman



Underscoring its mandate as the National Champion for Renewable Energy, OQ Alternative Energy (OQAE) has secured a commitment to receiving a stake of up to 25 per cent in all future renewable energy projects procured by Nama Power and Water Procurement Company (PWP) - the sole procurer of all new power and water capacity in Oman.

This commitment will cover all future solar and wind projects (and potentially other alternative energy schemes as well) starting with the Ibri III Solar PV project - a 500 MW scheme slated for implementation in Al Dhahirah Governorate.

Parent company OQ - the wholly state-owned global integrated energy group of the Sultanate of Oman - made the revelation in its newly published 2024 Annual Report.

It said: "... OQAE secured up to 25 per cent stake in all future renewable energy projects floated by Nama Power and Water Procurement (NPWP), who is the single procurer of power and water capacity in the Sultanate of Oman, starting with 'Ibri-III' solar PV project with a capacity of 500 MW."

Under current laws governing the procurement of Independent Water / Power Projects (IWPP / IPPs) in Oman, developers can own up to 100 per cent of the share capital in the founding company that successfully bids for an IPP, IWP or IWPP. However, the founding company is required to, within four years of its incorporation, offer 35 per cent of its share capital for public subscription via an Initial Public Offering (IPO) on the local bourse. Industry experts point out that a stake of up to 25 per cent now earmarked for OQAE is expected to be carved out from this share slated for public subscription.

In its report, OQ emphasized OQAE's strategic role in driving Oman's energy transition. "OQ Alternative Energy (AE) serves as the cornerstone of OQ's energy transition efforts and a catalyst to achieve the national objectives for carbon neutrality by 2050. This is aligned with Oman's Vision 2040. Appointed by the government as 'The National Champion for Renewable Energy', OQAE is committed to placing decarbonisation at the heart of its strategy, focusing on the decarbonisation of OQ assets and, ultimately, the decarbonisation of Oman."

According to the parent company, OQAE is actively advancing renewable energy projects, with over 7 GW of energy initiatives in its pipeline. They include projects designed to support the decarbonisation of OQ Group subsidiaries and affiliates, as well as industries operating in Suhar, Duqm and elsewhere.

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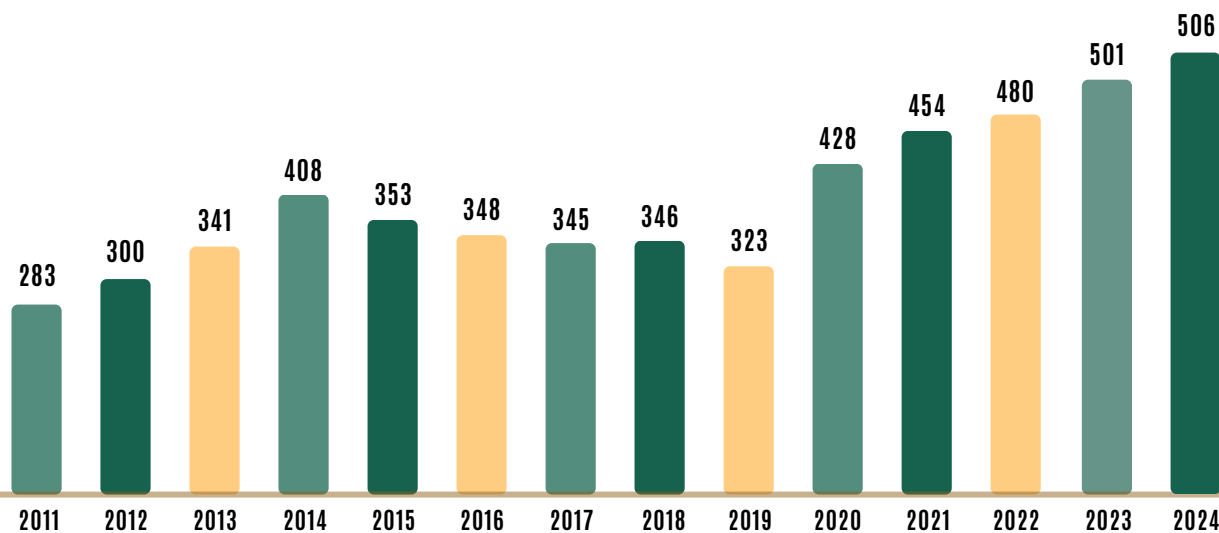


OPAL 2025 Events Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
 2024 Best Practices Award (15 Jan)	EMSSU SMEs Appreciation Ceremony (5th Feb)	Annual General Meeting Online (27th Mar)	Worker Welfare & Mental Wellbeing Forum (22nd April)	 (11-15th May)	Road Safety Forum (June 11th)
Senior Leaders Safety Forum 15th Edition (23rd Jan)			Summer Heat Stress Management (30th Apr online)	 (12-14th May)	Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (TBC)
			Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (TBC)	Global HSE Forum Bahrain (19-22nd May)	
				INTI& OPAL Tech Day (25th May)	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
		Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (TBC)	Digitalization & AI Forum (1st Oct)	BP Ruwad Graduation Ceremony (TBC)	EMSSU Awareness Sessions (TBC)
		EMSSU Awareness Sessions (TBC Quarterly)		Learning from Incidents & Best Practices DROPS (5th Nov)	 2025 Best Practices Award (TBC)
		TFE Graduation Ceremony (TBC)			Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (TBC)
		Learning from Incidents & Best Practices Forum (17th Sep)			2nd Mining Safety Leadership Forum (3rd Dec)

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