



CEO Message



Dear Valued OPAL Members,

September was a month filled with impactful initiatives and strategic collaborations. From advancing training-for-employment opportunities and local content, to supporting critical infrastructure safety, education, and sustainability, OPAL continued its mission to serve as a trusted partner in developing the sector.

Creating Opportunities Through Training-for-Employment

On September 1, OPAL, in collaboration with Occidental Oman under the Is'haam program and Al Ghalbi International Engineering & Contracting, launched the HSE Apprenticeship Program funded by the Ministry of Labour. Delivered by the Polyglot Institute over 18 months, the program will provide 10 Omani diploma graduates with structured training and direct employment upon completion.

On September 10, OPAL organized an orientation session for the second batch of students in the Engineering and Industrial Specializations Program under the vocational and technical education track. The program welcomed 890 students from Muscat and North Al Batinah, marking another milestone in preparing the next generation of technical professionals.

Driving Local Content and Economic Sustainability

In partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, we continued advancing the Local Content Certification Scheme with several targeted awareness sessions throughout the month. These included sessions for Energy and Minerals Operators on September 2, Nama Group on September 10, CCED employees on September 23, and a session with audit specialists on September 22 to strengthen compliance and transparency. Together, these efforts reinforce Oman's national strategy for economic diversification, sustainability, and localization.

On September 17, OPAL also signed a cooperation program with Madayn to enhance local content, promote SME development, and support industrial innovation, aligning with Oman Vision 2040.

Championing Safety and Critical Infrastructure Security

On September 3, OPAL participated as a strategic partner in the 4th Symposium on Security and Safety of Critical Infrastructure in Dhofar. OPAL's HSE leadership delivered presentations on advancing compliance, driving assurance, and digitalizing safety through the Himaya platform. That same day, OPAL welcomed H.E. Sayyid Salim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Human Resource Development, who reviewed OPAL's latest initiatives in training, employment, and workforce development.

Later in the month, on September 24, OPAL, in collaboration with PDO and under the patronage of H.E. Ahmed Al Humaidi, organized the OPAL Knowledge Exchange Forum on the theme "Learning from Incidents." Bringing together over 150 industry leaders, the forum reinforced the importance of embedding HSE learnings into workplace culture to strengthen safety across the sector.

Fostering Human Capital and Workforce Development

September was also marked by strong engagement with national stakeholders. On September 9, OPAL took part in the Safe Summer 2025 campaign closing ceremony, presenting on the OPAL Heat Stress Management Standard and reinforcing our joint commitment to worker welfare. The same day, OPAL participated as a strategic partner in the Oman 3rd CEOs Forum 2025 under the theme "Sustainability and Business Growth," engaging with more than 250 senior leaders from across Oman's economy.

On September 14, we signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Environment Authority to develop a competency program for the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector, supporting sustainable practices in line with the Montreal Protocol and national environmental commitments.

Further, on September 15, we organized an introductory session with The Qanja on the latest welding and HSE simulators, hosted a delegation from the General Federation of Oman Workers to strengthen collaboration on Omanization and workforce development, and conducted a site visit to Oman LNG in Sur to follow up on the first batch of turnaround maintenance employees.

On September 16, OPAL partnered with the Oman Institute for Training Services to explore training opportunities in CNC machining and to extend inclusion by supporting individuals with autism in skills development.

Advancing Digitalization and AI

On September 8, OPAL launched the Digitalization & AI Collaboration Working Group, uniting industry stakeholders to explore opportunities and challenges in applying AI and digitalization. The working group focused on how these technologies can improve HSE management, strengthen operational alignment, and enhance worker safety.

Looking Ahead

September's activities demonstrate the breadth of OPAL's role — from enabling employment pathways and embedding local content, to advancing safety, sustainability, and digital transformation. These efforts highlight our sector's collective vision for progress and resilience. As we move forward, OPAL remains committed to fostering collaboration, innovation, and workforce excellence in alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

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



1 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Occidental Oman (OXY) under the "Isham" program, and Al Ghalbi International Engineering & Contracting, organized the official induction of the HSE Apprenticeship Program, funded by the Ministry of Labor. The program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 10 Omani job seekers holding diploma degrees in engineering. It will be delivered by Polyglot Institute over a period of 18 months. The trainees will be employed directly after successfully completing the program requirements.



2 September 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, conducted the first targeted awareness session for Energy and Minerals Operators. The session aimed to enhance suppliers' understanding of the certification process and support their readiness to comply with local content requirements. This initiative aligns with Oman's national objectives for economic diversification, sustainability, and the localization of goods and services.



3 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated as a strategic partner in the 4th Symposium on Security and Safety of Critical Infrastructure, organized by Security & Safety Services LLC in Dhofar Governorate. The symposium highlighted the multifaceted aspects of security and safety in critical infrastructure, offering comprehensive perspectives and innovative solutions to address emerging risks and challenges. It also emphasized occupational health and safety practices, along with emergency preparedness plans, to foster a safe work environment and ensure effective responses to incidents and crises. Mr. Humaid Al Bulushi, General Manager of HSE and Standardization at OPAL, delivered two presentations titled: "Beyond Compliance: Driving HSE Assurance in Oil and Gas Facilities" and "Himaya Platform for HSE Digitalization." His contributions underscored the importance of advancing HSE practices and leveraging digital solutions to enhance operational safety and sustainability.



3 September 2025 - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) hosted H.E. Sayyid Salim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labor for Human Resource Development, to gain insights into OPAL's significant contributions to the energy and minerals sector. The visit included discussions on OPAL's latest initiatives in training, employment, and human capital development.



9 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in as a strategic partner in the Oman 3rd CEO's Forum 2025, organized by the Oman Academy for SMEs under the theme "Sustainability and Business Growth". The event took place at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC). This annual forum serves as a leading platform for addressing key issues shaping today's business landscape. It brought together more than 250 chief executives and decision-makers from across Oman's diverse economic sectors to exchange insights and explore forward-looking strategies. The forum aims to provide a dialogue platform that enables CEOs, investors, and startup owners to engage, exchange ideas, and discuss the challenges and opportunities related to business development in Oman and the wider region.



9 September 2025 – The Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in the closing ceremony of the “Safe Summer 2025” campaign, organized by the Ministry of Labour at its headquarters. OPAL’s participation included a presentation on the OPAL Heat Stress Management Standard. The event highlighted the strong collaboration and synergy between the government and the private sector in successfully implementing work-stoppage measures during peak heat hours in the summer, in compliance with Ministerial Decision 322/2011, aimed at ensuring the safety and welfare of workers.



10 September 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, conducted a dedicated awareness session for Nama Group. The session aimed to support Nama Group in understanding how to integrate the Local Content Certificate into their tendering and procurement processes, given their role in issuing tenders and engaging with suppliers across various sectors. This initiative aligns with Oman’s national strategy to drive economic diversification, enhance sustainability, and promote the localization of goods and services through the structured implementation of local content principles.



10 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized an orientation session for the second batch of students enrolled in the Engineering and Industrial Specializations Program under the vocational and technical education track. The program targets 890 students from the governorates of Muscat and North Al Batinah. The students will begin their studies in the eleventh grade during the 2025/2026 academic year, while the first batch continues their education in the twelfth grade. The program aims to qualify students in six different specializations and is implemented in collaboration with six training institutions in Muscat and North Al Batinah: the National Training Institute, the Technical and Administrative Training Institute, Knowledge Grid Academy, Takatuf Petrofac Oman Institute, Polyglot Institute, and Sohar Industrial Training Institute.



14 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and the Environment Authority have signed a strategic cooperation agreement to develop and implement a professional competency program in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. This initiative is designed to promote the adoption of best practices that are environmentally sustainable within this vital sector.

The agreement reflects the Sultanate of Oman’s commitment to fulfilling its international obligations under the Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. It also supports the Environment Authority’s implementation of the third phase of the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) Phase-out Management Strategy, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The project further aims to reduce reliance on ozone-depleting substances and strengthen the capabilities of national professionals working in the refrigeration and air-conditioning field.

Within the framework of this program, both parties will cooperate in the exchange of expertise and the provision of technical and logistical support. Efforts will also focus on the development of competency testing tools for the identified professions, the integration of professional examinations into the electronic platform, the accreditation of assessment centers and evaluators, and the issuance of professional licensing cards.



15 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with The Qanja, organized an introductory session showcasing the latest simulators used for training in welding and health & safety. The session aimed to familiarize OPAL members with the latest capabilities and applications in these fields.



15 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) welcomed a delegation from the General Federation of Oman Workers, led by Mr. Nabhan Bin Ahmed Al Battashi, Chairman of the Federation, and attended by senior management representatives. The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration between OPAL and the Federation to support initiatives related to Omanization, talent retention, and workforce development across the energy sector. The delegation was also briefed on OPAL's latest initiatives and sector-wide efforts aimed at strengthening national human capital, creating sustainable career pathways for Omanis, and aligning with national priorities to build a competitive workforce.



17 September 2025 - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) signed a strategic cooperation program aimed at enhancing local content in the national economy, supporting industrial innovation, and promoting social investment. The program includes joint initiatives to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), develop national competencies through specialized training programs, strengthen CSR projects, and explore new investment opportunities by analyzing value chains across various economic sectors. This cooperation comes within the framework of national efforts to achieve the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, and to support the sustainability and competitiveness of the Sultanate's industrial and energy sectors.



16 September 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the Oman Institute for Training Services, organized an introductory session to acquaint OPAL members with the institute's services in the field of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines, while also enhancing opportunities for cooperation in training and developing individuals with autism.



22 September 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized an awareness session in collaboration with the audit team from Crowe Mak Ghazali. The session aimed to enhance understanding of the audit requirements under the scheme, align perspectives on evaluation mechanisms and reporting standards, and uphold the highest levels of transparency and quality. It also focused on assessing organizational readiness to comply with certification requirements, in line with the Sultanate of Oman's national objectives to strengthen local content and foster sustainable economic development.



23 September 2025 – As part of the Local Content (LC) Certification Program, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, organized an awareness session for employees of CC Energy Development (CCED). The session aimed to clarify how the Local Content Certificate can be integrated into tendering and procurement processes, in alignment with the company's commitment to supporting local suppliers in the energy sector. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to support the Sultanate of Oman's drive toward economic diversification, sustainability, and increased in-country value.



24 September 2025 – Under the patronage of H.E. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Humaidi, President of Muscat Municipality, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), organized the OPAL Knowledge Exchange Forum under the theme “Learning from Incidents.” The forum, brought together more than 150 industry leaders, highlighted the importance of not only documenting incidents but also ensuring their implementation, follow-up, and evaluation to enhance integration within workplace culture. It also featured the sharing of best practices in Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE), aimed at strengthening workplace safety standards and safeguarding employees. This initiative is part of OPAL’s ongoing efforts to promote a strong HSE culture in the energy sector and to reinforce collaboration among stakeholders in building a safer and more sustainable work environment.



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The Journey to Excellence: OPAL CSR Platform



OPAL CSR: Powering a New Era of Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has long been a cornerstone of OPAL mission to create sustainable value for society. Today, that mission is strengthened through the launch and activation of the CSR OMAN digital platform, a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to unify, streamline, and maximize the impact of CSR activities across the Sultanate. Through this platform, OPAL is not only enhancing transparency and accountability but also enabling meaningful collaborations that deliver lasting benefits to communities.

CSR OMAN Platform: A Digital Gateway to Responsible Impact

Now more than ever, there is a growing importance for companies to ramp up their focus on social responsibility. "Social responsibility," in simple terms, means a business's obligation to pursue achievable and good long-term goals for its people and the world at large. Because corporate social responsibility is not compulsory, many companies might not feel the need to engage in it. However, businesses that embrace it often gain a competitive edge by attracting customers, retaining talent, and building trust with stakeholders. In today's digital age, CSR must also be transparent and accessible - enabling the public, partners, and communities to easily see, engage with, and benefit from initiatives.

The **CSR OMAN platform** was developed with this transformation in mind. It enables OPAL and its member companies to manage initiatives in one unified digital location, where proposals can be submitted, tracked, and implemented with measurable outcomes. Among its objectives:

- Harmonizing member companies' CSR strategies.
- Enhancing transparency through impact reporting dashboards.
- Maximizing engagement from companies, employees, and citizens.
- Enabling online volunteering and simplified proposal applications.
- Offering insights from communities to ensure initiatives address real needs.

By digitizing the CSR journey, OPAL is pioneering a new era of corporate responsibility in Oman—one that is efficient, transparent, and truly community-driven.

Collaboration That Fuels Change

The collaborations in CSR one of OPAL's philosophy that meaningful CSR can only be achieved through strong partnerships. Whether with government bodies, international companies, or local communities, OPAL continues to unite stakeholders around initiatives that create measurable and long-term impact.

Looking ahead, OPAL will continue to scale its CSR activities through the CSR OMAN platform, ensuring that every project is purposeful, transparent, and aligned with Oman Vision 2040. Future initiatives will build on the success of these flagship programs, reinforcing OPAL's role as a catalyst for sustainable development.

Defining Tomorrow: OPAL's Path to Lasting Impact

At OPAL, CSR is not a side effort, it is a driving force for national progress and a commitment to people, progress, and prosperity. Through the CSR OMAN and the pioneering initiatives implemented during the past period, OPAL is proving that when vision meets action, the results reshape communities, empower generations, and secure a sustainable future for Oman. The journey is not just about responsibility, it is about leadership, impact, and setting the benchmark for excellence in the energy sector and beyond.

Written By Nasser AL Issaei
Head of CSR&ICV at OPAL



تتقدم إدارة المدرسة والهيئة التعليمية بالشكر والتقدير للجمعية العمانية للطاقة (أوبال) بالتعاون مع وزارة التربية والتعليم على مبادرتها في توفير أجهزة حاسب آلي لجميع طلبة التعليم المهني التقني للتخصصات الصناعية وعدددهم، (45) طالبا في الصف الحادي عشر بالمدرسة، بحضور الاستاذ زايد محمد العمري والاستاذ حمد الراشدي مساعد المدير وكان في توزيع الأجهزة الاستاذ ناصر حمد الريسي أخصائي التوجيه المهني.



Green hydrogen to anchor Oman's future energy



Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, has underlined that green hydrogen will be the "cornerstone of the Sultanate of Oman's future energy landscape," as the country balances the long-term use of oil and gas with the rapid development of renewables.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Tawasul magazine, Al Aufi said achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 will demand heavy and sustained investment in research and development (R&D), while closer collaboration with academia and industry will be critical in shaping the transition.

"We don't view renewables as direct replacements for oil and gas, but as strategic complements within a broader, multi-source energy ecosystem," Al Aufi said. "Our vision is not to abandon oil and gas, but to diversify energy sources."

The minister emphasised that while fossil fuels remain central to the global economy, Oman is pursuing a dual track: deploying advanced technologies to ensure efficiency and sustainability in hydrocarbons, while accelerating green hydrogen and renewable energy projects.

Oman has taken concrete steps to advance green hydrogen, establishing Hydrom as the national coordinating body and earmarking strategic land blocks for production and export. Multiple agreements have been signed with global companies and investors, and policy frameworks are being aligned with international market standards.

"Our focus now is on building the transport and export infrastructure, ensuring we have qualified national talent, and adjusting regulations to meet global demands,"

Al Aufi said. "Naturally, projects of this scale face challenges, but we see them as opportunities." Al Aufi stressed the role of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) as a strategic partner in advancing the sector. A joint committee between the ministry and SQU has been formed to explore research integration, support graduation projects, and establish specialised laboratories for energy transition and rare earth mineral studies.

"Reaching net-zero will require sustained R&D investment, particularly in hydrogen, clean gas technologies, carbon capture and storage, and industrial waste recycling," he said.

This year, the ministry identified promising copper and chromium reserves in Al Sharqiyah North under new concession agreements. In renewables, high-potential wind sites have been evaluated for development with local and international partners.

Al Aufi urged stronger cooperation between academics and industry professionals, highlighting the complementary role of theory and practice. "Knowledge that isn't applied stays trapped on paper; exploration that lacks scientific grounding risks wasting resources," he said. "The greatest discoveries always start with an idea, followed by study — and end in achievement."

Oman LNG signs deal with OQ to supply natural gas liquids



Oman LNG has signed a new Sale and Purchase Agreement with OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries sector, under which OQ will be supplied with Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) for a period of four years, starting in 2026.

The agreement comes within the framework of strengthening the long-standing strategic partnership between the two sides in the energy and converting industries sector, and reflects their joint commitment to maximizing the in-country value of hydrocarbon resources in the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement was signed by Hamed Mohammed Al Nu'amani, CEO of Oman LNG, and Kamil Bakhit Al Shanfari, CEO of the Refineries and Petroleum Industries sector in OQ.

Under the terms of the agreement, the supply of NGLs will continue from Oman LNG's complex in Qalhat, to OQ's facilities in Sohar, where the liquids are used as key feedstock in the production of fuels, chemicals, and plastics. This supports the growth of Oman's downstream sector and aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.



منتدى عُمان للقيمة المحلية المضافة Oman In-Country Value Forum

الدورة السادسة 2025

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مسقط



أكتوبر 16
2025



سيناريوهات المستقبل

المحتوى المحلي من الامتثال إلى صناعة الأثر

في نسخته السادسة، ينطلق منتدى عُمان للقيمة المحلية المضافة تحت عنوان "سيناريوهات المستقبل: المحتوى المحلي من الامتثال إلى صناعة الأثر"، مُستندًا لرؤية متجددة تنظر إلى مفهوم القيمة المحلية بوصفه أحد أعمدة التنمية الوطنية، وأداة إستراتيجية لتعزيز الاستدامة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في سلطنة عُمان.

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الجلسة الثانية: <<

إعادة تقييم الأثر الحقيقي للقيمة المحلية المضافة خلال السنوات الماضية. <<

تحليل جاهزية منظومة القيمة المحلية لمتغيرات العقد القادم. <<

بناء تصورات مستقبلية لدمج الابتكار والتقنية وريادة الأعمال في بنية القيمة المحلية المضافة. <<

استكشاف آليات تعزيز التعاون بين الحكومة والقطاع الخاص ومجتمع ريادة الأعمال. <<

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Aflah Al Hadhrami Is Shaping Oman's PDO Into A Purpose-Driven Energy Leader

Reference: [Forbes Middle East](#)



There's no denying that the global energy landscape is in flux. Calls for a faster transition to sustainability are intensifying, but the International Energy Agency (IEA) notes that the overall outlook for oil demand has barely shifted from last year's forecast. Yet, 2025 has already tested the resilience of oil markets. Trade tensions and economic uncertainty are dampening growth, while OPEC+'s decision to speed up the unwinding of production cuts has added fresh pressure.

Meanwhile, according to IEA estimates, global oil demand, mainly driven by the U.S. and China, is projected to rise by 2.5 million barrels per day between 2024 and 2030, reaching a plateau of about 105.5 million barrels per day by the decade's end. In contrast, growth is expected to slow sharply—easing from roughly 700,000 barrels per day in 2025 and 2026 to marginal increases in the following years—before tipping into a slight decline by 2030, under current policy and market trajectories.

While the global landscape appears challenging, oil has been the pillar of Oman's economy since 1967, funding infrastructure, education, and healthcare. The sector provides about 72% of government revenues and nearly 30% of GDP, with China as the main export market, based on the International Trade Administration's data. Oman produces around one million barrels per day under OPEC+ quotas, with reserves of 5.2 billion barrels of oil and 24 trillion cubic feet of gas, as of 2022.

One state-owned giant dominates production in the sultanate: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), which accounts for more than 70% of the country's crude oil output and a significant portion of its gas supply. Yet it was only recently that PDO appointed its first Omani national to lead the company in its 88-year history, with the selection of Aflah Al Hadhrami as managing director. "We are considered the backbone of Oman's economy. I don't say this with pride, but with a sense of responsibility," says Al Hadhrami. "Since PDO's inception, I am the first Omani to serve as managing director—and this is not a personal achievement, but a mandate from the state."

PDO traces its origins back to 1937, when the Iraq Petroleum Company established Petroleum Concessions Limited to pursue exploration rights beyond Iraq. That same year, its representative Basil Lemmitte reached an agreement with Sultan Said bin Taimur, securing a 75-year concession for Oman and Dhofar. Early exploration faced significant challenges, from political instability to the interruption of World War II, which stalled progress. The company adopted the name Petroleum Development Oman in 1951 after relinquishing Dhofar, and the first major breakthrough came in 1962 with the discovery of oil at Yibal, followed by Natih and Fahud. These finds marked the beginning of Oman's emergence as an oil-producing nation. Oman exported its first shipment of crude in 1967.

By the 1970s, as the sultanate embarked on rapid modernization under Sultan Qaboos, PDO's role grew central to financing national development. The government acquired a 60% stake in 1974, further aligning the company with state priorities. Today, this 60% majority shareholding, representing the government of Oman, is maintained through Energy Development Oman, while other shareholders are Shell plc (34%), Total (4%), and PTTEP (2%).

Over the decades, PDO expanded production, launched gas operations, and pioneered enhanced recovery to address Oman's complex geology. Today, it remains the nation's leading energy producer, with a diversified portfolio that includes investments in renewables and commitments to net-zero goals. "PDO is part of the national fabric, always a strategic player in Oman's economy. Beyond oil and gas, we invest \$6-8 billion annually, supporting infrastructure, SMEs, education, and R&D," says Al Hadhrami. "Sustainability is not just about PDO—it's about sustaining Oman."

Oman's 2025 budget underscores the central role of oil and gas in the economy, even as the country navigates global market uncertainties and pursues long-term diversification under its Vision 2040. In 2025, hydrocarbon revenues are projected at \$19.8 billion—about 68% of total government receipts—slightly higher than the 2024 budget but below last year's actual results, according to a 2025 PwC report. Yet even as the rigs continue to power growth, a new narrative of transition is emerging.

"PDO is tackling one of the biggest challenges for any energy company: the decarbonization dilemma—balancing emission reduction with the growing energy demand. PDO's strategy addresses both priorities, aligning with Oman Vision 2040 and the country's net-zero 2050 target. From adopting international standards such as ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 to embedding carbon reduction into its operations, PDO is moving beyond compliance toward measurable results. "I'm a firm believer we need to be brave and challenge the status quo," says Al Hadhrami. Two flagship projects illustrate this push: the Riyadh-1 and Riyadh-2 wind farms (200 MW) due in 2026, projected to cut 740,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually, and the North Solar IPP (100 MW) set for 2026, saving 220,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. These developments are part of a wider decarbonization roadmap aiming to halve emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Oman is positioning itself at the forefront of the energy transition," says Omar AlSharif, Oman Country Senior Partner at PwC Middle East. "National operators are accelerating projects in carbon capture and cleaner production to keep hydrocarbons competitive while cutting emissions. Meanwhile, renewable energy investment in the region is expanding by nearly 20% annually and is projected to hit \$100 billion by 2030. Oil and gas companies are targeting a 50% reduction in operational emissions by the end of the decade through efficiency, electrification, and renewables."

"We have set clear targets for 2030—we're not waiting until 2050. By then, we must reduce our carbon footprint by a significant percentage," says Al Hadrami. "I believe that by 2030, there is no doubt we will meet the targets we've committed to." As energy systems digitize, PDO is also investing in technology to boost efficiency and sustainability. In 2024 alone, the company launched 18 initiatives and validated 15 others. "Additionally, we embarked on five technology initiatives and successfully concluded four, focusing on key areas such as greenhouse gas reduction, flaring, energy efficiency, renewable energy, power generation, and energy intensity," adds Al Hadrami. "At the end of the day, our responsibility goes beyond just meeting international climate targets. We have a duty to be sustainable, and also a moral responsibility toward the next generation."

Today, PDO is working closely with the Oman Net Zero Center and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. It is also in the process of adopting advanced software—partnering with a leading global organization—to improve data visibility. "If you look at the initiatives led by our young engineers, you'll see how much innovation is being driven from within. At the same time, we remain open to international expertise—many global players are coming to us with solutions, and we are actively collaborating."

"Despite its pivot to renewables, PDO remains Oman's cornerstone oil producer, with production this year reaching its highest in two decades, with plans to sustain above 700,000 barrels per day. Cost optimization and digital tools have helped improve recovery rates from Oman's reservoirs.

PDO's In-Country Value (ICV) strategy is central to its resilience. By supporting more than 75 local manufacturing facilities, the company not only strengthens domestic supply chains but also advances Oman's diversification goals—critical amid global supply chain disruptions and energy price volatility. "Oil revenues still anchor Oman's economy, and financing the transition will require foreign capital even our stretch targets for 2025 by nearly 10%," he explains. "That didn't happen because of me—it happened because we rallied the organization around one idea: everything we do, we do it for Oman."

As for the company's performance, Al Hadhrami is direct: "We have no option but to increase production. The government targets a 5% GDP increase every year, and much of that depends on oil and gas." Official figures from the Ministry of Finance show Oman's oil and gas sector averaging between 72% and 74% annually (actual revenue reaching \$23.8 billion in 2024). For PDO, depending on oil price volatility, total free cash flow hovers around \$20 billion annually, comparable to, and in some cases exceeding, international players. While the company is not publicly listed and cannot disclose detailed financials, the MD reveals, "What I can say is that 2024 was one of our strongest years, with production outpacing previous records. And 2025 is shaping up to be even stronger."

"Oman isn't giving up on hydrocarbons—it's rewriting their story," adds Hatab. "With PDO at the helm of upstream innovation, and with other projects like Marsa LNG setting new global benchmarks, the sultanate is showing the world how oil nations can transition. The desert is no longer just a place where hydrocarbons are extracted; it's where the future of sustainable energy is being engineered."

Now, for his vision for the company and the sector over the next decade, "Hydrocarbons will always be needed. We see many global giants like bp and Shell already shifting their strategies. A few years ago, there was a strong push on hydrogen, and Oman is investing heavily to become an international hub for it. That will continue, and it is vital. But at the same time, we must sustain hydrocarbon production, and we must do it in a far more responsible way. I do not foresee a decade ahead—in Oman or globally—where hydrocarbons are no longer essential."

Oman Participates in First Summit for Sustainable, Inclusive Global Economy in New York



New York --- The Sultanate of Oman participated in the "First Biennial Summit for a Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Economy," held in parallel with the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, delivered Oman's speech. He highlighted the Sultanate of Oman's efforts and achievements toward realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, noting that Oman has achieved 14 out of 17 goals so far, exceeding 82 percent completion.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman is striving to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 through renewable energy, green hydrogen production, and the circular and blue economies. He pointed to pioneering initiatives launched by Oman, including the "Oman: Sustainable Future" initiative and the "Oman Future Fund," in addition to the "Energy Transition Fund" established by the Oman Investment Authority to stimulate the shift toward clean energy.

The Foreign Minister renewed Oman's commitment to continuing to activate its partnerships with all nations, in line with the principles of its foreign policy, which are based on peace, coexistence, tolerance, and dialogue.

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Oman's natural gas output hits 32.9bn cubic metres in first 7 months of 2025



Oman's natural gas production, including domestic output and imports, reached 32.88bn cubic metres during the first seven months of 2025, up slightly from 32.64bn cubic metres in the same period in 2024, recording a year-on-year increase of 0.7%. Data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that associated gas production rose by 10.8%, reaching 7.31bn cubic metres by the end of July 2025, compared with 6.59bn cubic metres in the corresponding period of 2024.

In contrast, non-associated gas production (including imports) fell by 1.8% to 25.57bn cubic metres by the end of July 2025, down from 26.05bn cubic metres in the same period of 2024. In terms of consumption, natural gas use in industrial projects declined by 3.9%, totalling 16.37bn cubic metres by the end of July 2025, compared with 17.05bn cubic metres in the same period of 2024.

Gas consumption in power generation plants rose marginally by 0.5% to 8.8bn cubic metres, up from 8.76bn cubic metres in the first seven months of 2024. The data also showed that gas use in oil fields, including industrial areas and by Oman Mining Company and Oman Cement Company, increased by 12.7% to 7.54bn cubic metres, compared with 6.69bn cubic metres in the same period of 2024.

Furthermore, gas consumption in industrial areas grew by 10.3%, reaching 161.4mn cubic metres by the end of July 2025, up from 146.3mn cubic metres in the corresponding period last year.

Oil output declines

Oman's total oil production fell by 0.8% to 210.12mn barrels in the first seven months of 2025, compared with 211.9mn barrels in the same period of 2024, according to NCSI statistics.

The statistics also revealed that average daily oil production decreased by 0.4% to 991,100 barrels per day during January-July period of 2025, down from 994,800 barrels per day in the first seven months of 2024.

Oman's oil exports totalled 178.75mn barrels in the first seven months of 2025, a slight decline of 0.2% compared with 179.04mn barrels in the same period of 2024.

The data indicated that the average price of Oman crude fell by 12.1% to \$72.5 per barrel during January-July 2025, down from \$82.5 per barrel in the same period last year.

New 500 MW Ibri III Solar Project Agreement: Implications for Business Growth and Renewable Energy Investment in Oman



Nama Power and Water Procurement (PWP) has signed an agreement for the development of the Sultanate of Oman's first utility-scale solar and battery storage project with the consortium of Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC – Masdar, Al Khadra Partners, Korea Midland Power Co. Ltd (KOMIPO), and OQ Alternative Energy (OQAE), with an investment of RO 115 million.

Masdar, a global clean energy leader, will lead the consortium developing the Ibri III Solar Independent Power Project, which combines a 500-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) plant with a 100-megawatt-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system (BESS). The scope of the project includes design, construction, ownership, financing, operation and maintenance of the plant and storage system.

The signing ceremony of the power purchase agreement (PPA) for the project, was held under the auspices of Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals.

Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, said: "The signing of the agreement for the Ibri III Solar Power Plant is a milestone in the Sultanate of Oman's transition towards renewable energy. This strategic project, covering an area of nearly 10 million square meters with a generation capacity of 500MW, and battery energy storage system (BESS) capacity of 100MWh, embodies our commitment to achieving the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and reaching Net Zero by 2050.

"With an investment of around RO 115 million, the project reflects the confidence of our partners and investors in Oman's business environment. The project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 505,000 tonnes annually, and contribute up to an additional 4 percent of renewable energy in the total electricity generation mix.

"The signing of this agreement marks a significant achievement in renewable energy from both technical and economic aspects. It also delivers an inspiring message that the Sultanate of Oman is steadily advancing towards a sustainable future, built on energy diversification, enhanced energy security, strengthened economic competitiveness, and the consolidation of Oman's position as a regional hub for clean energy."

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OQ, Iraq's SOMO sign deals for crude storage, trading



Muscat – In a significant milestone for bilateral energy co-operation, OQ Group has signed two strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) through its subsidiaries – Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO) and OQ Trading – with Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO), the federal oil marketing arm of the Iraqi Ministry of Oil.

The first MoU establishes a long-term partnership to develop and operate an integrated crude oil storage project at Ras Markaz in Duqm, with an initial capacity of 10mn barrels, expandable over time. The project will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure for storage, loading, and unloading. The second MoU allows OQ Trading to market Iraqi crude on international markets, combining the commercial and operational expertise of both parties to enhance value creation, broaden market access, and strengthen knowledge exchange.

The agreements were signed by Salim bin Marhoon al Hashmi, Managing Director of OTTCO; Wail Zuhair al Jamali, CEO of OQ Trading; and Ali Nizar al Shatari, Director General of SOMO. The MoUs lay the foundation for large-scale crude storage at Ras Markaz and expanded global marketing of Iraqi crude.

Together, these agreements mark a pivotal step in strengthening economic ties between Oman and Iraq. By developing modern storage facilities and expanding crude trading capabilities, the two countries aim to maximise value, stimulate cross-border investment, and reinforce their positions as key hubs in global energy trade.

Hashmi said the partnership with SOMO represents a critical step in consolidating Oman's role as a regional energy hub, while enhancing bilateral relations and economic integration between Oman and Iraq.

He noted that since commencing operations at Ras Markaz in 2023, OTTCO has handled more than 300mn barrels of crude oil. The terminal's strategic location outside the Strait of Hormuz provides a competitive advantage, offering international companies large-scale and flexible storage solutions, and positioning Oman at the forefront of global energy logistics.

The Ras Markaz facility currently comprises eight storage tanks, an import and export platform, and central support systems, with a first-phase capacity of 26mn barrels and clear potential for expansion. In addition, OTTCO operates the products export terminal at Duqm Port, part of the Duqm Refinery (OQ8), and is advancing into clean energy infrastructure through global partnerships in ammonia and green hydrogen. These initiatives align fully with Oman Vision 2040 and the worldwide shift towards low-carbon energy.

Commenting on the co-operation, Jamali said, "This collaboration opens a new platform to reshape the region's oil trading landscape. At OQ Trading, our global network and deep expertise in complex trading operations allow us to forge innovative alliances that strengthen Oman's role as a hub for trade and investment."

The agreement positions Oman and Iraq as two pivotal anchors on the global energy map, leveraging their resources, infrastructure, and shared ambitions to bolster regional energy security and meet rising global demand. Jamali added that OQ Trading's commercial expertise, technical capabilities, and strategic alliances with leading oil and financial institutions will enhance the value of Iraqi crude in world markets and deliver reliable solutions adapted to the sector's rapid transformation. Furthermore, the two MoUs pave the way for knowledge exchange between OQ and SOMO, foster bilateral investment, and generate new jobs across both the public and private sectors. This co-operation supports sustainable economic growth and reflects OQ's ambition to expand its global footprint while consolidating its position as a trusted partner for energy trade and investment.

Through this collaboration, Oman and Iraq emerge as central hubs in the global energy landscape. By leveraging their respective capabilities, resources, and infrastructure, both nations are well positioned to play a leading role in achieving regional energy security and meeting growing global demand.

REPORT: Oman sharpens upstream resilience while scaling hydrogen ambitions



Oman is reinforcing its oil and gas sector while accelerating clean energy initiatives to secure long-term energy leadership, according to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion's Advisory Report 2025.

Petroleum remains the largest contributor to Oman's economy, accounting for 35% of GDP in Q2 2024 and drawing the bulk of foreign direct investment. More than 80% of the sultanate's oil output is exported, with China the dominant buyer, absorbing over 90% of shipments.

Officials say exploration and production strategies are being refined to attract international partners into both conventional and unconventional resources, including heavy oil and tight gas, positioning Oman as a resilient producer. "Our diverse portfolio – ranging from heavy oil to tight gas – positions Oman as a resilient energy player," said Mohsen Al Hadrami, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

At the same time, Oman is carving a global role in clean fuels. Hydrom, under Energy Development Oman, is spearheading hydrogen development, with production targets of 1m tonnes annually by 2030 and 8.5m tonnes by 2050. The government's second auction round in 2024 secured commitments worth OR18.8bn (\$49bn) to produce 1.4m tonnes of hydrogen annually, underscoring international appetite.

With Europe, Japan and South Korea seeking long-term clean fuel supplies, Oman is well positioned to bridge hydrocarbons and renewables. Its approach signals a dual-track strategy: safeguarding oil and gas revenues while leveraging solar and wind resources to become the Middle East's largest hydrogen exporter by 2030.

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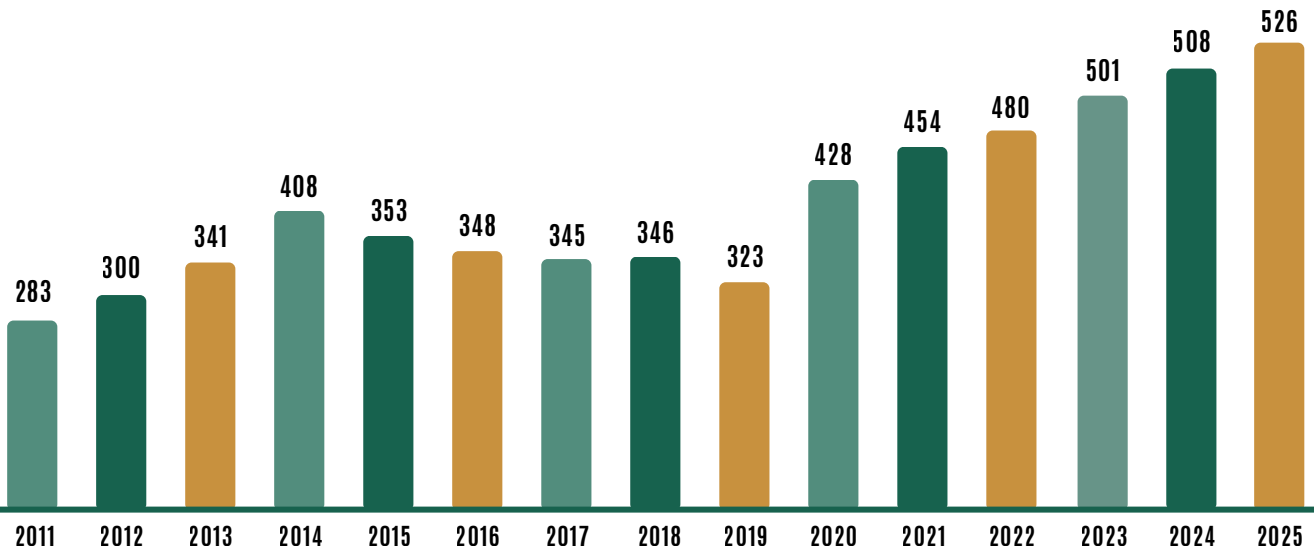
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OPAL 2025 Events Calendar

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 (21st April)	 Oman Sustainability Week (11-15th May)	Oman Road Safety Forum (June 11th)
Senior Leaders Safety Forum 15th Edition (23rd Jan)			Summer Heat Stress Management (30th Apr online)	 OMAN PETROLEUM & ENERGY SHOW (12-14th May)	Oman's Energy & Minerals Skills Development Ecosystem Webinar (25th June)
			Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (24th April)	Global HSE Forum Bahrain (19-22nd May)	
				INTI & OPAL Tech Day (25th May)	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (28th Aug)	Learning from Incidents & Best Practices Forum (24th Sept)		Ruwad Graduation Ceremony (TBC)	Digitalization & AI Forum (10th Dec)

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