“The month of June was another exciting month for OPAL. A new organizational structure based on OPAL’s core business was implemented that will enhance the way in which we interact with our member companies. The new structure will sharpen our focus on three main areas: a) provision of products and services; b) execution of projects to deliver new products and services; and c) Networking, engagements and communications with our member companies.

During the month, a number of highlights are worth mentioning related to the implementation of the industry’s HSE common standards. OPAL signed a new contract with Sheida International for the provision of audits to approve IVMS suppliers that meet minimum standards for the Oil & Gas Industry. We also moved closer towards the implementation of the Roadworthiness Assurance Standard, which will pave the way for a common industry RAS certificate replacing multiple RAS stickers issued by different Operators. A new working committee was formed for the purpose of formulating basic HSE ladder courses such as HSE induction, first aid, fire response and H2S awareness with the alignment of all operators to create common industry HSE training standards. OPAL presented the “Incident and Statistics Sharing Standard” and OPAL’s annual HSE statistics report (2018) during the Asset Integrity Process Safety Management (AIPSM) event.

With regards to Human Capital Development, OPAL conducted a quality assurance audit for RAY who are currently delivering the HSE Practitioner Apprenticeship Program. Additionally, we are at an advanced stage in preparing a Training program covering Planning and People Management to be conducted by one of the approved training providers in the near future.

OPAL presented to Asyad’s Omanisation team an overview of ongoing initiatives and projects funded and overseen by MOG’s ICV HR Committee; and OPAL along with PASI paid a visit to Mukhaizna site where a presentation on Social Insurance regulations and related work injuries was conducted. A similar workshop was conducted for PDO in their Knowledge World premises.”

Fathy Al Mendhry
Interim CEO OPAL
The employees are our biggest asset, they are our way of accomplishing a distinct and strategic vision of relevance and growth in the industry. We believe that training is an important retention tool that not only promotes job satisfaction, but nourishes employees’ minds and skills, and adds flexibility as well as efficiency to the organization. We are strongly committed to our core value of “improving lives”, and as part of our contribution to the improving of our community, we have implemented “non-mandatory” training programs for our Omani employees to support the development of our future Omani leaders and potential managers.

For the second year in a row, we have nominated several of our supervisors to attend the outsourced “General Management Training Program”, a program delivered over a 6 month period that is designed to give a holistic understanding of vital management competencies that would help candidates enhance their personal effectiveness. This program is specifically tailored to help them become better leaders and business decision-makers as they guide and motivate teams for greater performance and take strategic business decisions.

Daleel welcomed onboard the 2019 batch of summer interns

Daleel Petroleum welcomed the 2019 batch of 57 trainees to the annual Summer Internship program. Students training is part of their academic curriculum which Daleel supports as part of its commitment towards the community. The internship experience is a golden opportunity for undergraduate students to apply their academic knowledge into dynamic work practices.

Daleel offered 57 seats this year from various educational local and international institutions as well as the IAESTE program. The students underwent an induction program that covered all areas and disciplines of the oil & gas industry. The interns are posted in different departments including both locations; Daleel Head Office, the field and the rigs.

Daleel Petroleum extends support by providing a positive environment that would enrich interns learning experience and allow exchange of ideas that will ultimately lead to enhancement of their skills and knowledge.

OMAN-KUWAIT JV LETS CONTRACT FOR DUQM PETCHEM COMPLEX

Duqm Refinery and Petrochemicals Industries Company (DRPIC) has awarded a contract for frontend engineering design (Feed) work on its petrochemical complex to Wood plc. Duqm Petrochemical Project (DPP) This falls under the scope of Oman Oil Co and Orpic as the second stage of the $7bn (OMR2.69bn) Duqm Refinery integrated complex that is being developed through a partnership between Oman Oil Co and Kuwait Petroleum International in Special Economic Zone in Duqm (Sezad).

Construction work across all three engineering, procurement, and construction packages of Duqm Refinery is nearly 20% complete, according to Construction Week’s sister title Refining and Petrochemicals Middle East. The Feed services contract also includes a natural gas liquids (NGL) extraction facility in central Oman and a 230km pipeline from concession areas to the petrochemicals complex.

Technology selection and awards for multiple licensed units at the petrochemicals complex will complete during the early stage of Feed works. Oman Oil Co and Orpic will take the lead in developing the NGL extraction unit and pipeline. The NGL plant will be located in concession areas in central Oman and be connected with Oman Gas Company’s network. The pipeline will transport NGL stream from the extraction plant to the petrochemical complex. A mixed-feed steam cracker with a capacity of 1,600 ktpa ethylene processing is also being developed within the project to process liquefied petroleum gas, full range naphtha, and the off gases and NGL extracted from natural gas available in central Oman.

AL ALAWI AND CO. ENTERS COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH ANDERSEN GLOBAL

Al Alawi and Co., a leading full-service law firm located in Oman, has finalized a collaboration agreement with Andersen Global. The addition of Al Alawi and Co. brings 37 years of professional experience to the Anderson Global team in the Middle East.

Al Alawi and Co. is one of the largest and oldest independent law firms in Oman. Dr. Ali Khamis Al Alawi founded the firm in 1982, and since then the firm has provided tax and legal service to multinational and national corporations, private businesses, government agencies and individuals. These services include banking, finance, restructuring, partnerships, international trade, equity, commercial, IP, and real estate law.

“Collaborating with Andersen Global will not only allow us to further expand our services to a greater breadth of clients, but we view it as growing our family,” said Dr. Ali Khamis Al Alawi. “My son and daughter are also highly-experienced members of our firm, and we see our shared values of best-in-class, efficiency, and seamlessness echoed in the Andersen family.”

Mark Vorsatz, Andersen Global Chairman and CEO of Andersen Tax LLC said, “I was most impressed, when we first met, that their firm operates with openness, transparency, coupled with best-in-class service. These are values that we share. Because of this, they are going to fit in very well with our extended team.”

Andersen Global is an international association of legally separate, independent member firms comprised of tax and legal professionals around the world. Established in 2013 by U.S. member firm Andersen Tax LLC, Andersen Global now has more than 4,500 professionals.
With the aim of supporting and promoting entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as one of the core elements of Occidental Oman In-Country Value (ICV) Strategy, four SMEs were awarded support agreements as part of Phase 4 of Occidental Oman’s SME Development Program.

The SME Development Program was established in 2013, and each Phase has awarded the selected SMEs support agreements to enhance the SMEs through development in various fields, and support capacity building of Omani-owned SMEs that demonstrate high potential for maximising ICV and creating jobs for Omani.

Phase 4 of the program was launched in 2018, inviting Omani SMEs to apply to the program with a set of criteria. After detailed assessment, four SMEs were awarded support agreements: Desert Sand Oil and Gas, Oman Drilling Systems, Marjan Petroleum and united Petroleum Industries.

The signing ceremony to award the SMEs was held at the headquarters of Occidental Oman under the patronage of the undersecretary of Ministry of Oil and Gas, H.E. Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi.

The support agreements were signed by Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager of Occidental Oman, and the representatives of the four companies: Ali Al Wahaeibi, Chairman of Desert Sand Oil & Gas; Munir Al Balushi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Drilling Systems; Rashid Al Masfry Chief Executive Officer of Marjan Petroleum; and Abdulbaqi Al Kindi, General Manager of united Petroleum Industries. Abdulkarim Al Ghassani, Vice President of Supply Chain, and other senior executives of Occidental Oman were present at the ceremony.

This event is Occidental Oman’s response to the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos to support the production of Omani goods and services locally, as well as the sustainable employment of Omani nationals. In addition to increasing the diversification of the economy, the program reaffirms Occidental Oman’s wide-ranging commitment in developing a competitive Omani supply chain.

“We are proud to enter Phase 4 of Occidental Oman’s SME Development Program, as the program has seen steady growth since its inception in 2013,” said Kelly.

“As Phase 4 commences, we are hopeful that the Program will encourage a pursuit of excellence in SME development, such that the awarded SMEs will be able to compete locally and internationally, as well as serve as essential sources for economic growth and job creation in the country.”

This program falls under Occidental Oman’s umbrella of strategic partnerships and continuous collaboration with key stakeholders, and is part of Occidental Oman’s endeavour and long term commitment to support programs that enhance economic growth and sustainable development and that yield positive impacts in the neighbouring communities.
You have fulfilled the promise and met the covenant, so Oman is moving confidently towards a promising future.

On the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the glorious Renaissance, we are pleased to extend our highest loyalty and congratulations to

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - may Allah protect him -

Praying to the Almighty to preserve His Majesty for this noble country.
MEMBER NEWS

HEALTH EFFECTS OF CAR AIR CONDITIONING BY ICEM

Due to high temperatures usually recorded in this part of the world, the use of air conditioners is inevitable most of the time, especially during summer time. According to a research, the car dashboard and seats emit Benzene, a Cancer causing toxin (carcinogen- take note of the heated plastic smell in your car).

In addition to causing cancer, it poisons the bones, causes anemia, and reduces white blood cells. Prolonged exposure will cause Leukemia, increasing the risk of cancer.

The acceptable Benzene level indoors is 50mg/ft². A car parked indoors with the windows closed contains 400-800 mg of Benzene. If parked outdoor under the sun light at a temperature above 43°C, the Benzene level goes up to 4000 mg/ft², and that is 40 times the acceptable exposure level, hence the people inside the car will certainly inhale the excess amount of the toxins. To reduce the exposure to carcinogen, it is advised to open the car windows, and after entering the car not to turn the Air Conditioner ON immediately. Benzene is a toxin that affects the kidney and the liver - two critical organs in the human body – and it is a very difficult toxic substance to be expelled by the immune system. Prevention is better than cure!

Mohammed Al Wahaibi
HSE Manager
International College of Engineering and Management

ONEIC CELEBRATES SAFETY MONTH FOR ITS FIFTH YEAR

ONEIC celebrated SAFETY MONTH for the fifth consecutive year achieving around 11,857.62 million working hours without any reportable lost time injury. This achievement is a reflection of the company’s commitment to applying the standards of occupational health and safety regulations of labor law of the Ministry of Manpower (MD286/2008) and taking into account the application of international standards of safety in all its operations in order to protect workers from work hazards and provide environmental conservation. In coincidence with this annual event, the Department launched a reporting platform represents as “MUDHEE” that was launched specifically for the ease of reporting procedures towards emergency cases of ONEIC operations sites throughout the Sultanate.

The month covered various activities & awareness campaigns including: the celebration of World Health Day, World Earth Day, and World Safety Day as well as intensive competitions and vital training sessions aimed to promote a culture of health, safety and environment among the employees and contractors.

PDO’S Launches its Social Investment Projects Map

PDO launched its Social Investment (SI) Projects Map on the Company’s external website. The map showcases our social investment projects that are categorised according to the Company’s key SI themes: Learning & Research; Community Infrastructure Development; Health, Safety & Environment and Youth & Women Empowerment. In 2018, PDO committed to 36 new social investment projects in infrastructure development, training and the provision of technology and equipment. The map is now available to view on PDO’s external website wwwpdo.co.om by clicking on the Arabic and English links.

MAKTOM TRADING & CONTRACTING CO LLC SUCCESSFULLY RENEWED AND CERTIFIED WITH NEW SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES IN ISO 9001:2015

MAKTOM Company, one of the Artificial Lift Companies in the Sultanate of Oman has successfully renewed and certified with new scope of activities to ISO 9001:2015 certification by the ISO accredited certification body SGS United Kingdom LTD.

Additional activities include Well Integrity Test (WIT), Well head maintenance. Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) using Ultrasonic Testing (UT), supply of surface and subsurface artificial lift system, Supply of Sucker Rods and Downhole Gauges.
PDO AND EJAAD COLLABORATE ON 4IR RESEARCH

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) on the 18th of June signed an agreement with The Research Council to conduct research on the overall impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) on jobs in the oil and gas sector through Ejaad, the platform to boost R&D collaboration between industry and academia in Oman.

The study will explore the effect of 4IR on employment trends, stable, emerging and declining roles and job opportunities over the next five to ten years in PDO and its direct contractor community.

The study, which is made up of three phases, is aimed to be concluded by the end of the year (2019). The first phase of the study will identify and map out potential jobs that will be eliminated, developed or created due to the use of different 4IR technologies within PDO and its contractors.

The second and third phases will focus on building the Company’s competency framework for emerging jobs as well as provide capability building proposals, recommendations and implementation plans in relation to the current and future workforce of PDO and its contractors.

Ejaad Director Dr Abdullah Al Abri said: “We are delighted to sign this consultation agreement with PDO to look at the promising upside of 4IR into PDO’s business portfolio and potential implications on jobs and associated competency development programs.”

SHELL OMAN SIGNS PACT TO SET UP INTEGRATED SOLAR POWER SYSTEM

On the occasion of Islamic Orphan Day, Shell Oman has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) for the implementation of an integrated solar power system and educational program at the Child Care Center in Al Khoudh.

The signing ceremony took place as part of an Iftar event hosted in celebration of Orphan Day and was held under the patronage of Minister of Social Development Sheikh Mohammed Bin Said Al Kahlani. The MoU was signed by Dr Yahiya Bin Badr Al Ma’awali, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Development, Chris Breeze, Shell Oman Country Chairman, and Dr Mohammed Mahmood Al Balushi, Chief Executive Officer of Shell Oman Marketing Company. The event was attended by dignitaries, representatives, and key staff from Ministry of Social Development, Shell Oman, and various charitable associations in Oman.

According to the MoU, Shell Oman will provide the Child Care Center with solar power panels for power consumption, in addition to rolling out an educational STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) program called Nxplorer.

Dr Mohammed Mahmood Al Balushi, Chief Executive Officer of Shell Oman Marketing, said: “Shell Oman has always been on the forefront when it comes to taking the innovative and effective path to create a positive impact in people’s lives. In continuing our journey of being leaders in the drive for change, we are delighted to partner with Ministry of Social Development for the implementation of the integrated solar power system and educational program at the Child Care Center in Al Khoud.”

As part of this initiative by Shell Oman, one of the Shell Intilaqah-trained Omani SMEs will support the solar power installation, while helping train the relevant personnel within the Ministry on its maintenance and care. In addition to this, a proper energy efficiency evaluation-analysis will be done to identify areas of improvement for the Center in the future.

The introduction of Nxplorer, an innovative educational program that introduces youth and future leaders to complex and creative thinking, will help bring about a positive change in the children’s mindset. Nxplorer focuses on Energy, Water, and Food, builds awareness and knowledge of energy problems, and stirs the youths’ interest in STEM from an early age.

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS FOR OMANI GRADUATES

Special Technical Services (STS) believes that a broad based strategy is the most effective way to bring about a true value to commitment to the ICV program and align its actions with the objectives of our clients and the country.

As a result of this strategy, STS firstly developed the Omani Graduate Development Program and after successful implementation, the Omani Graduate Mentoring Program was developed. Attracting fresh and skilled graduates and providing them with training and development to help reach not only their potential in their work capacity, but also achieve their personal goals has always been an opportunity for Special Technical Services.

It is with sense of pride that we can announce the graduation of 59 Omani engineers & supervisors who recently completed our programs. The ceremony itself was developed in two folds, firstly, we celebrated the graduation of another 41 graduates of the OGDP. These graduates have undertaken the challenges to learn and master the technical knowledge and skills associated with their disciplines. These programs are very structured and OGDP graduates are allocated with a mentor who will provide guidance and support during program.

In addition, we celebrated the first cohort of 18 graduates of the OGMP who are taking on the challenge of mentoring the new OGDP graduates of the future. We are indeed extremely proud of this step of development in growing Omani Mentors. The participants of the Omani Graduate Mentoring Program attended a series of workshops designed to provide them with the skills and knowledge to become a Mentors & Coaches.

Upon successful completion of the OGMP course, the graduates will return to the sites and currently all of them are undergoing a transition to take over the mentoring duties for the new OGDP joiners from the existing expatriate mentors. This is the start of a wonderful journey!
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