

Oman Water Society Annual Report 2015

Introduction

Since its launch in April 13, 2010, Oman Water Society is working hard to achieve their goals through approaching specialists in the concerned public and private sectors as well as to connecting with all segments of society in order to create a link between all partners concerned with water sector, whether they are from the water consumers or decision makers to intensify efforts in all aspects of water resources and its preservation from pollution and depletion.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors held eight meetings throughout the year 2015, and the most important topics related to the water society in order to develop the work and achieve its objectives, which can be summarized in the following:

- **Award of Proficiency in the field of water**

This project was under study during the 2014 and the Society develop a concept for this periodic award for water that is awarded every two years. It is a local national award aims to value research efforts of scientists and innovators in the following areas: surface water and groundwater, management and protection of water resources and alternative resources non-convictional, the project was approved by the Ministry of Social Development to start implementation.

- **Oil Produced water project**

Continuing Discussions in the presence of a representative of OWS , between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Oil and Gas for the use of the water associated to oil industry, after the success of the Oil Produced water seminar in A'Duqum, and the International Conference which OWS participated in organizing with the Ministry of Oil and Gas.

- **Introducing Water sources as tourism attractions.**

Oman Water Society sought in a project to introduce water sources (such as aflaj, springs and dams permanent-flow wadis) as tourism products that attracts tourist groups, and opening handicrafts selling outlets on these sites. Several meetings have been held in this regard, the last meeting on January 1, 2014, with specialists from Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, the Ministry of Tourism and the Public Authority for Craft Industries. Currently preparations for the second meeting to follow up on what has been accomplished in coordination between the Ministry of

Tourism and the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources are under process.

- **Water Champions Initiative**

OWS offered an initiative to raise awareness among students about the importance of water and its conservation by making groups of students in schools and teaching them how to become champions water. The Champion of Water is any girl or boy of all ages who dedicates their efforts to protect water sources that we have. They should know all that is relevant to water preservation and share that knowledge with others. Despite their gender or age, they are all participants in the one thing that they are committed to water sources preservations. The initiative also targets the administrative and teaching staff and supervisors who will oversee the implementation of the field plan for the initiative as well as observers of the initiative the following year and students' parents. Necessary approvals have been taken and now securing the budget needed to start the project, where the search of financial support for the project.

Participations

On the participation aspect, the Omani Water Society at the local, regional and international level, participated in the following events:

- 08-01-2015 Participating in the Omani Environment Day and in its associated exhibition in Qurum Natural Park.
- 22-01-2015 participating in the Third Arab Water Week in Kingdom of Jordan.
- 1-2-2015 participating in the coordination meeting exploratory Ophiolite rock drilling project in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Muscat, where they discussed the importance of exploratory drilling in the presence of a number of specialists and interested parties from both inside and outside the Sultanate, as this research and exploration project is one of of the vital projects to get to know these rocks and their stored water, as well as to benefit from international expertise in studies and research.
- 9-11 Feb 2015 cooperating with Sultan Qaboos University in organizing a workshop on management and evaluation of treated water.
- 18-3-2015 participating in the celebration of World Water Day at Sultan Qaboos University.
- 22-3-2015 participating in organizing World Water Day in collaboration with the Directorate General of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources in A'Dhahira

Region & Public Authority for Electricity and Water, where activities included a show, a walking march and operetta in the evening.

- 22-3-2015 A lecture on the occasion of World Water Day in Samail Municipality presented by Engineer Mahmoud Al Azri.
- 22-3-2015 OWS supports Al Hamra municipality in an awareness campaign on the occasion of World Water Day.
- 22-03-2015 on the occasion of World Water Day, a lecture was presented at the morning assembly in the Sultan's Private School and then organize a field visit to Falaj Al Khoudh.
- 27 March 2015 on the occasion of World Water Day OWS participated in the exhibition organized by the Sultan Qaboos University in Sahwa Gardens
- 31-3-2015 General Meeting for OWS was held in Omani women Hall in Muscat.
- 19-4-2015 an extended meeting with Japanese experts to discuss the usage techniques for Oil Produced water.
- 20-22-April-2015 participation with the Ministry of Oil and Gas in the organization of the International Conference on Oil Produced water in Muscat Golden Tulip Hotel, where the conference shed light on the importance of the water extracted from the oil drilling.
- 4-5-2015 participating in a workshop to address the Oil Produced water and sewage where experts from the United States Environmental Protection Agency EPA and RECYCLEAN company attended the workshop
- 12-14-May-2015 participating in the regional conference for the exchange of water Knowledge in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
- 18-20-2015 participating in a training program "Analytical and numerical modeling of groundwater Dynamic under Managed Aquifer Recharge", which aims to develop the water resources management and assist in decision-making.
- 19-20-May-2015 participating in the organization of "Energy for Electricity and Water" conference in cooperation with the Public Authority for Electricity and Water. Where the conference shed light on the importance of water and electricity as important resources in the overall development in the Sultanate by playing a social role, water related role, agricultural, economical and touristic.

- 8-9- June-2016 a seminar was organized for "Aflaj as a cultural heritage and Development necessity" in the scientific exploration Institute in Ibra in Sharqiyah North province, with the participation of more than 160 scholars and experts in collaboration with a number of government and educational institutions in the Sultanate.
- 3-4-June-2015 participating in the second meeting of the Arab Network for the management of water resources in arid and semi-arid areas in Muscat where they made an amendment to the current system to ratify and select the network business plan.
- 31-8-2015 A lecture was organized on the Financial Sustainability of water projects on in the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources.
- 8-9-2015 A workshop entitled "Water Drop in danger" was held in Shamsa Al Khalili School.
- 13-9-2015 An awareness Seminar for farmers in the Al Hamra state.
- 15/9/2015 A visit to Haya Water Company (sewage treatment plant) in the Ghala for a group of teachers and students from Shatti Al Qurum Secondary School to raise awareness and introduce them to the stages of water treatment and transportation.
- 16 \ 9 \ 2015 A lecture on the role of NGOs in the management of water resources at the Sultan Qaboos University by Dr. Abdul Baqi Al Khabouri
- 18-20-Oct-2015 participating in a training workshop on Water Governance organized by the Arabic Network for Management of water resources.
- 22-11-2015 OWS organized a lecture on the quantification of the effects of climate change - examples from Oman presented by Professor Metlo Oz from University of Wisconsin, USA.
- 5-12-2015 A meeting to discuss OWS initiative in bringing the views between the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources and Falaj Daris representatives to reach a common view on the future of the Falaj Daris garden in Nizwa.
- 10-12-2015 Participation of Eng. Saud Al Shidhani at the third session of the Arab Forum for Scientific Research and Sustainable Development at the headquarters of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries in Beirut, Lebanon

- 8-10 December 2015 Eng. Zahir Al Sulaimani patronage the opening of a workshop on "Gray water ceremony for the sustainable use in food production" organized by the Oman National Committee of Education, Culture and Science in Nizwa Hall at Golden Tulip, where a number of experts attended from Arab countries.
- 14-12-2015 Participating in "A meeting between the respective personnel from Water and Environment sector" organized by the Innovation center in Muscat represented by directorate of scientific regions at the Council of Scientific Research, to meet with the relevant water and environment sector, with the participation of representatives from several government agencies, academic, and private, under the slogan Together to build a sustainable future for Oman, in the main hall of the Council located in Azaiba
- 22-12-2015 Eng. Zaher Khaled Al Sulaimani - Chairman of the Oman Water Society Welcomed Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Mahmoud, Chairman of Water and Science Technology Association (WSTA) in his office at the headquarters of the OWS in Ghobra. During the visit they screened the OWS film and the Chairman briefed Mr. Abdul Rahman on the OWS local and international achievements and the various activities that it intends to implement the coming period. Then they discussed areas of cooperation between the two associations and ways of enhancing them, where Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Mahmoud congratulated the Chairman & the members of OWS for their great efforts and assured support from WSTA to the Society in its activities and efforts to achieve its objectives, and wishing them further success. At the end of the meeting, the Chairman thanked Mr. Abdul Rahman on his visit and souvenirs were exchanged.