

Notes on OBFA Members' Meeting held on April 26th at 1630 hrs

Present:

Maqbool Sultan - Chairman

Shawqi Sultan - Secretary General

Abdulhussain Jaffar

Abdulredha Sultan

Sh. Aflah Al Rawahi

Ahmed Al Aرامي

Andrew Long

Hani Zubair

Hussain Jawad

Kiran Asher

Majid Al Toki

Maqbool Hameed

Michael Head

Mohsin Haider Darwish

Nicholas Pattison

Pankaj Khimji

Paul Sheridan

Sh. Yousef Yaqoub Al Harithy

Mansion House Conference July 27th

The Conference will be focussed on Finance: SME's and Long-term Project Finance. Jenny Tooth who runs the UK Business Angels Association will also participate

Sherard Cowper-Coles is discussing who the organisers will be: MEA or Michael Thompson

The banks will pay the costs estimated to be around OMR15K-OMR20K

HE Abdulsalam Al Murshidi President of the SGRF and HE Yahya Al Jabri, Chairman of the CMA will be invited

There will be a reception on the evening of the Conference at the Anglo-Omani Society at which it is hoped that HH Sayyid Haitham and HRH Prince Andrew will attend

Some 15-20 Omanis are expected (around 35% of the total numbers)

HE Hamoud bin Sangour and the Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, will be the two keynote speakers

It has been suggested that a further visit (as yet unspecified) should be arranged for the London area at the same time

On May 3rd. there will be a meeting of the Bankers' Association to discuss their involvement

Technology in Construction

A study will be carried out by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) with the terms of reference developed by WS Atkins and Carillion. The purpose will be to look at the latest construction techniques and technology, including off-site construction, and review its potential impact on Oman. Legislative changes needed to apply the changes will also be reviewed. The study will be paid for by The Supreme Council for Planning which is doing its own study into a review of the Oman Building Codes.

Membership

All member who have not yet paid their subscriptions are asked to do so as soon as possible or indicate that they wish to resign. A letter has been sent to those who have not paid. Members asked to see the accounts and suggested that OBFA needs a formal Treasurer and Auditor. It was agreed that unaudited accounts would be circulated and that a budget would be developed. There was discussion on who could be approached to become new members.

There was a discussion on whether members of other country associations could join. It was suggested that an invitation to join should be written to the Chief Executives of all banks and public companies.

There was discussion on whether the US Business Committee and OBFA could work together. There are some issues as the US equivalent is a private limited company. Shawqi will talk to Ali Daud who is the head of that Committee.

Reception at the British Ambassador's Residence May 19th

There will be a reception at the Residence to mark both the Queen's birthday and the 45th year of accession of His Majesty. A special booklet has been printed and OBFA has been asked to contribute R1,000 towards the costs. It was agreed that this would be done.

Other Issues

1. The website will be developed by a small company at KOM, identified by Malak Al Shibani. It was also recognised that a leaflet should be produced setting out clearly what OBFA is and does.
2. It was suggested that the British Ambassador's Business Group could hold a joint meeting with OBFA and possibly OBFA could sponsor one of the monthly British Business Forums.
3. Need to develop activities/functions for Oman (winter) and the UK (summer). Possibly Logistics/Tourism -related. There could be further activities in between.