



Keynote Remarks Special Economic Zone Authority at DUQM (SEZAD)

7th JULY, 2017

**His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said,
The Patron of the Event,**

**Sir Sherard Cowper,
Chairman of the Omani –British Business Council (OBBC),
The Patron of the Event,**

**Mr. Maqbool Ali Sultan,
Chairman of the Omani- British Friendship Association (OBFA),**

Distinguished Guests,

Honorable Business Community and professions,

On behalf of SEZAD Chairman, who was eagerly looking forward to meet up with you today, but unfortunately due to unforeseen reasons he could not make it, I am very much delighted and privileged to address the distinguished group of UK Business community. This event is a significant example of the extreme importance we attribute to strengthening our economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Our meeting today is a real chance to explore the investment opportunities and the value propositions that are offered by Duqm SEZ as an upcoming trade and logistics hub for the wider Middle East region that spans from West Asia, Indian Subcontinent, to Africa.

Before proceeding, I would like to seize the opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the **Chairman of the Omani - British Friendship Association (OBFA), Mr. Maqbool Ali Sultan**, and to the **chairman of the Omani -British Business Council (OBBC), Sir Sherard Cowper**, for organizing and co-hosting the event.

Honorable guests,

Duqm Special Economic zone is the government pioneering initiative to turn the Sultanate of Oman into one of the world's leading business hubs, enjoying a strategic location at the crossroads between Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Based on our progressive outcomes and conviction, we are confident that the zone will turn into one of the most vibrant economic hubs on the international arena.

We strongly believe that there is a real appetite to evolve trade, investment links between the two countries, and Duqm is an ultimate promising opportunity. The international community is talking about opportunities in Duqm more often, and the country will certainly benefit from the rise of Duqm SEZ, your commitment to Duqm SEZ is greatly valued and its influence on our community is enormous. Large-scale plans for infrastructure construction have been placed and the potentials are huge. I am fully confident that our gathering today will have a great impact on the cooperation between our countries.

Distinguished Guests,

Today, industries are experiencing an interesting phase of development, which is focused in the use of high technology and alternative energy sources. Ultimate impact can only be realized through a combination option ranging of, optimal solutions and of course, the utilization of high-tech, resulting: smart, energy efficient and environmentally friendly community, which care for the future generations in Duqm.

To conclude, I would like to challenge the business community and professions to innovate; prove their excellent entrepreneurship, high-tech and high ecological safety feature shall be the ultimate promise of different industries thus we can make a difference in Duqm.

On behalf of SEZAD, I would like to thank **OBBC & OBFA for such inspiring initiative**, and to express my sincere thanks to **Sir, Sherard Cowper and his team** for making this gathering possible. Now I will let you with Duqm SEZ investment opportunities and propositions by my colleague Mr. SALEH, ONE STOP SHOPE MANAGER, thus the UK business community can utilize to access opportunities on Oman Land, wishing you a successful and rewarding deliberation.