

Minutes of the OBFA Board meeting held at the residence of HE Maqbool Sultan on April 8th 2015 at 4:00 pm

Present:

Maqbool A Sultan (MAS) – Chairman
Shawqi A Sultan (SAS) – Secretary General
Khalil Khonji (KK) – Member
Saleh Taleb Zakwani (STZ) – Member
Chris Breeze (CB) – Member
Andrew Long (AL) - Member
Ahmed Al Araimi (AA) - Member
Pankaj Khimji (PK) - Member
Nick Pattison (NP) – Member

The purpose of the meeting was to update the Board on the recent visit of MAS and SAS to London and to discuss details of the Mansion House Conference in July.

Mansion House conference July 27th

1. Now a round table discussion for some 50-60 people maybe up to 75. The aim is to have around 35% Omani and 65% British representation.
2. Two keynote speakers: HE Hamood bin Sangour (Oman Central bank) and the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of London, Alan Yarrow
3. Finalise structure and content by the end of April
4. The banks will provide the funding
5. Topics need finalising (cf NP's original note)
6. Reception at the Anglo-Omani Society headquarters on the same evening. It is hoped that Prince Andrew and HH Sayyid Haitham will attend.
7. Important to have a newsworthy action at the meeting. There was a proposal to have an agreement with the UK Business Angels Association which could be signed at the meeting.

Venture Capital and the Angel Fund Association

1. Involvement of the BAFA (with a possible presentation by Jenny Tooth) - <http://www.ukbusinessangelsassociation.org.uk/> in the Conference (Also might wish to talk to <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/>)
2. Mentoring and support is more important than funding: funds are available within Oman.
3. Possible involvement of Nomou and Grofin that currently has \$18mln under investment. Bankers' Association to help with various funds like SGRF, Al Rafd etc. HSBC has an international Growth Fund which could be involved.
4. Possible involvement of local branches of City firms such as HSBC, PWC, E&Y etc.

Technology in Construction Industry

A study is needed for which Marco Malpiedi of W.S. Atkins and Andy Jones of Carillion have agreed to help with the Terms of Reference. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) through Peter Oborn, has offered to carry out the study. HE Sultan bin Hamdoun Al Harthy, Adviser at the Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning, has offered to fund the study and incorporate it in the revised Building Code which they are developing.

Miscellaneous

SAS to talk to Malak Al Shibani of PEIE re Website for OBFA

Yahya Nasib and Brian Ritchie to become honorary members (Action: SAS to write to them).

Arrange for OBFA Members to meet latest by May. (Action: SAS)

The US Business Committee has requested a meeting with OBFA Board Members on the 12th of April. SAS to find out the numbers from their side that would attend.

There is concern over those members who have still not paid their subscriptions. (Action: SAS to write to them a final request).

Ask KPMG (and the like) to send a paper on "How to set up a business in Oman".

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5:15 pm